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OCTOBER 1975

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation

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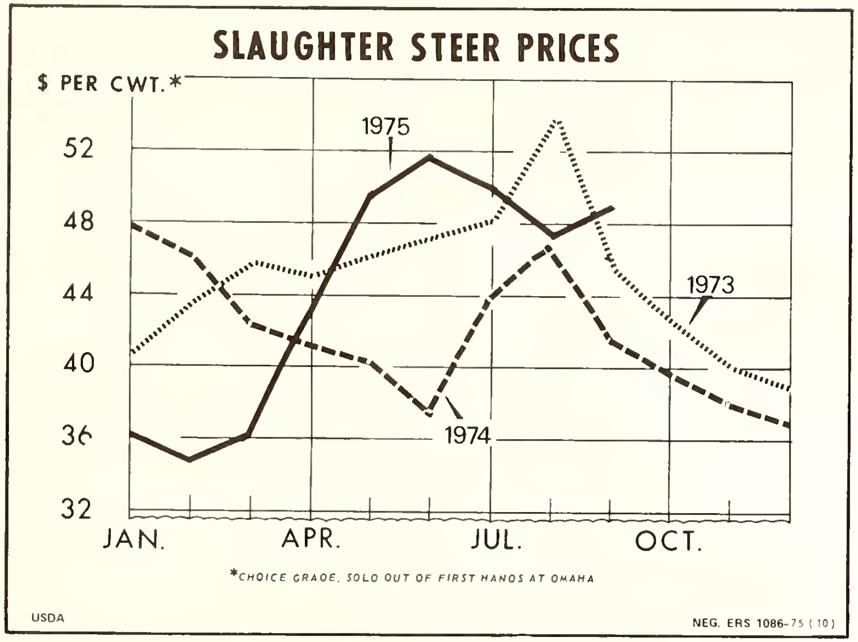
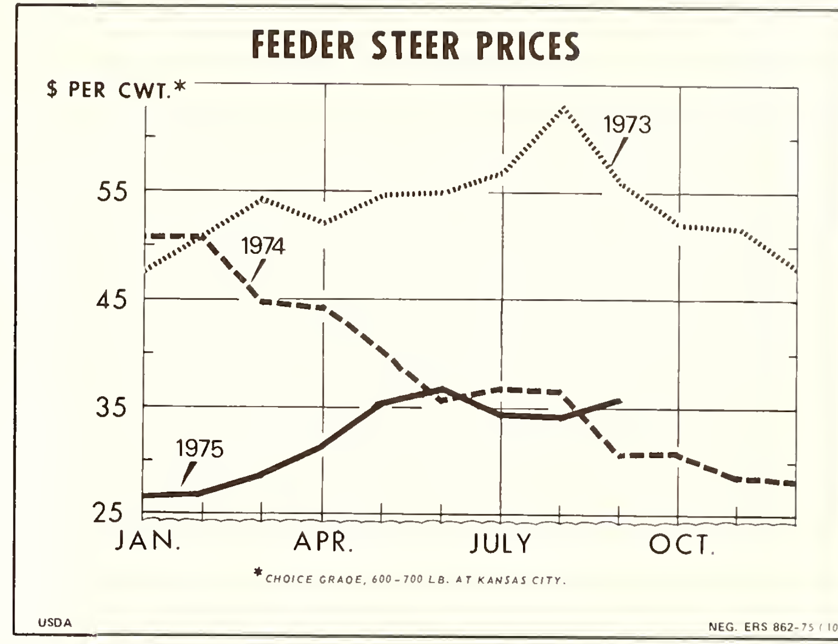
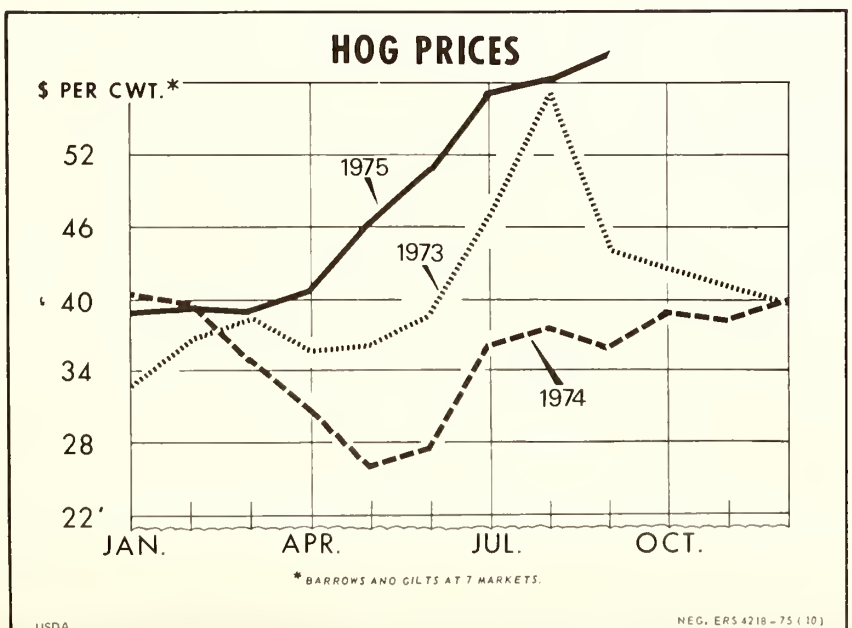
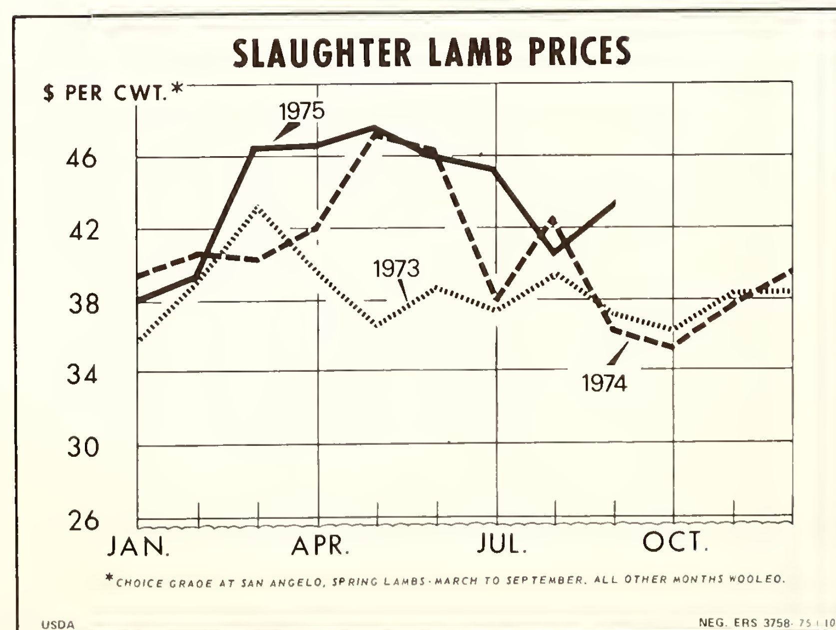

SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES
$ PER CWT.*
52
48
44
40
36
32
1975
1974
1973
JAN.
APR.
JUL.
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT OMAHA
USDA
NEG. ERS 1086-75 (10)


FEEDER STEER PRICES
$ PER CWT.*
55
45
35
25
1973
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE, 600-700 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.
USDA
NEG. ERS 862-75 (10)


HOG PRICES
$ PER CWT.*
52
46
40
34
28
22
1975
1973
1974
JAN.
APR.
JUL.
OCT.
*BARROWS AND GILTS AT 7 MARKETS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 4218-75 (10)


SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES
$ PER CWT.*
46
42
38
34
30
26
1975
1973
1974
JAN.
APR.
JUL.
OCT.
*CHOICE GRADE AT SAN ANGELO, SPRING LAMBS-MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED.
USDA
NEG. ERS 3758-75 (10)

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

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Approved by
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and Summary released
October 1, 1975

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Economic Research Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

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The Livestock and Meat Situation is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

SUMMARY

Retail meat prices likely will continue relatively high for the balance of 1975, and for the year could average 7-9 percent above 1974. While up from the summer, red meat production during October-December will run about 5 percent smaller than a year ago. Meat prices during October-December could trend down slightly from mid-year peaks but still average 15 percent or more above last fall. Weakness in beef prices could be almost offset by higher pork prices. Per capita meat consumption in 1975 may be down around 8-10 pounds from last year's 188 pounds.

Developments in the grain market in the next several months will heavily influence the livestock outlook for this fall and well into 1976. Although there are a few early signs of recovery in cattle feeding and hog raising, several months of instability and uncertainty surrounding livestock and feed grain markets have reduced the potential for significant increase in livestock feeding this fall.

Reductions are becoming smaller but cattle on feed inventories remain below the reduced 1974 level. After almost 2 years of severe financial losses, cattle feeders have been hesitant to fill lots again because of high grain prices and much uncertainty in future fed cattle prices. The September inventory of market hogs was well below year-earlier levels. Hog producers have indicated plans for some expansion in the pig crop next winter, but many hog producers still face the difficult choice of whether to sell corn on a high cash grain market, or to speculate on getting even better returns several months later from feeding hogs. Many farmer-feeder hog producers have been reluctant to take the longer term risk. For hog producers who purchase feed, the strong foreign market for grain and volatility in grain prices increases the risk of feeding.

Placements of cattle into feedlots slowed during the summer as feed grain prices moved somewhat higher and fed cattle prices drifted lower. After increasing 17 percent from a year earlier in the 23 States during the spring, placements in the seven major feeding States were down 13 percent in July, and in August rose only 4 percent above a year earlier. Marketings of cattle from feedlots in July

and August about matched placements; thus, cattle on feed inventories were largely unchanged. However, since inventories were dropping sharply throughout 1974, reductions from a year earlier are becoming smaller, ranging from 41 percent below a year ago last March to 13 percent fewer on September 1.

Judging from the stronger feeder cattle market in September and reports of substantial increases in volume of sales at feeder cattle auctions in some regions, placements during September may have been up sharply from July and August levels. This may help to offset the slackened pace of placements in July and August. While fed cattle marketings this fall will remain relatively small, they could be up from current levels and about match October-December 1974. The slaughter of nonfed cattle will continue large as cattle move off pastures in volume. Although beef production this fall could still be record large, the small supply of fed cattle and sharply lower slaughter weights than a year ago will trim beef output somewhat below earlier expectations. If nonfed slaughter is as large as expected during October and November, fed cattle prices could turn down from late September levels of around $49 per 100 pounds and range in the mid $40's. Prices could be higher if feed grain prices were to move sharply lower, which would tend to increase placements and reduce nonfed steer and heifer slaughter.

If feed grain prices remain high enough to hold down increases in placements this fall, fed cattle marketings through early 1976 are not likely to grow fast enough to offset seasonal reductions in nonfed slaughter. This would imply moderate gains in fed cattle prices late next winter and early spring.

Feeder cattle prices rose from early 1975 through June, settled back in July and August, then picked up again in September. Choice 600-700 pound feeders at Kansas City at the end of September were selling above year-earlier levels at a 1975 high of around $38 per 100 pounds. Recent price strength may reflect some early fall optimism stemming from prospects for stabilized grain and fed cattle prices and a pickup in feedlot placements. Feeder cattle prices this fall will be closely tied to movements in the grain market. If feeding costs decline during the harvest season, feeder prices could strengthen further, narrowing the spread between feeder cattle and fed cattle prices.

The September 1 survey of hog farmers in 14 States indicates producers are beginning to respond to record high hog prices and favorable feeding margins. Reductions in farrowings this year are becoming smaller than earlier planned, and a small increase is in prospect for the pig crop this winter.

The September 1 inventory of hogs and pigs was down 17 percent from a year ago. Market hog inventories were down 18 percent and breeding stock numbers were 12 percent smaller. Judging from the distribution of market hogs on farms by weight groups, slaughter this fall may be up seasonally from summer but still fall 20 to 22 percent short of a year ago. There is little indication at this time that barrow and gilt prices this fall will decline much from late September levels of around $63 per 100 pounds.

Pork output likely will remain below year-earlier levels through early 1976. Producers are currently making decisions for the December 1975-February 1976 pig crop which will supply most of next summer's pork. Producers on September 1 reported plans to increase farrowings for this pig crop by 6 percent from a year earlier. Continued favorable feeding margins might even result in further increases in farrowings this winter. Even so, it appears that significant increases in the pork supply are still almost a year away.

OUTLOOK '76

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 17-20

Commercial Meat Production and Livestock Prices

	1974				1975				1976	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III[1]	IV[2]	I[2]	II
Production:										
Beef (mil. lb.)	5,434	5,638	5,751	6,021	5,833	5,592	5,950	6,200	6,100	
Percent change from										
year earlier	+1	+12	+15	+7	+7	-1	+3	+3	+5	
previous quarter	-4	+4	+2	+5	-3	-4	+6	+4	-2	
Pork (mil. lb.)	3,378	3,531	3,243	3,431	3,043	2,914	2,500	2,700	2,600	
Percent change from										
year earlier	+4	+11	+16	+3	-10	-17	-23	-21	-15	
previous quarter	+1	+5	-8	+6	-11	-4	-14	+8	-4	
Lamb and mutton (mil.lb.)	119	109	118	108	101	96	100	100	95	
Percent change from										
year earlier	-6	-14	-8	-12	-15	-12	-15	-7	-6	
previous quarter	-3	-8	+8	-8	-6	-5	+4	0	-5	
Veal (mil. lb.)	83	84	121	154	165	182	230	250	225	
Percent change from										
year earlier	-14	+11	+66	+93	+99	+117	+90	+62	+36	
previous quarter	+4	+1	+44	+27	+7	+10	+26	+9	-10	
Total Red Meat (mil. lb.)	9,014	9,362	9,233	9,714	9,142	8,784	8,780	9,250	9,020	
Percent change from										
year earlier	+2	+11	+16	+6	+1	-6	-5	-5	-1	
previous quarter	-2	+4	-1	+5	-6	-4	0	+5	-2	
Prices:					*$ per cwt.*					
Choice steers, Omaha 900-1100 lb.	45.46	40.01	43.91	38.19	35.72	48.03	48.64	44-46	46-48	
Barrows & gilts, 7 markets	38.40	28.00	36.59	39.06	39.35	46.11	58.83	60-62	58-60	
Slaughter lambs, 5 markets	39.68	44.62	37.97	36.71	40.32	46.89	42.51	40-42	43-45	

[1] Preliminary. [2] Forecast.

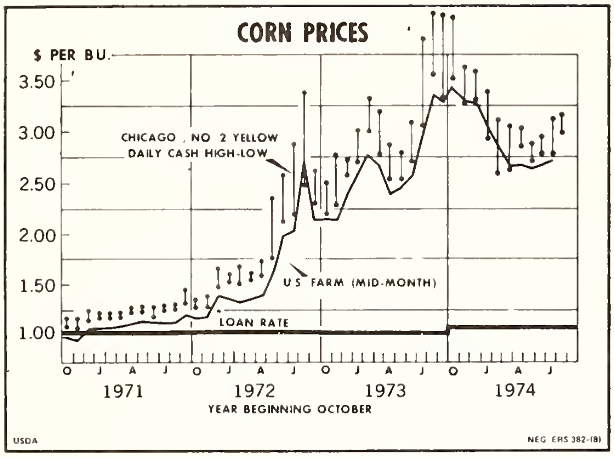
FEED SITUATION

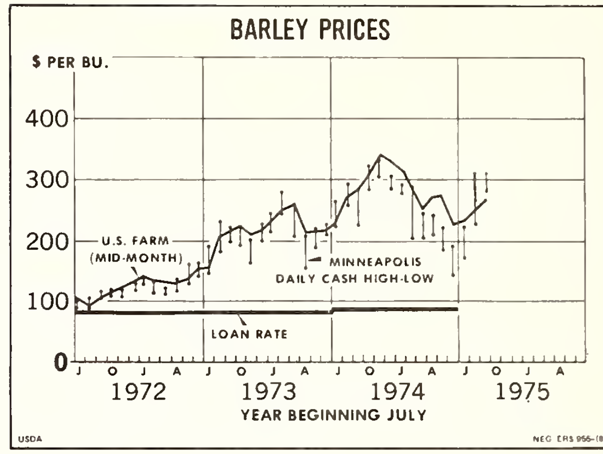
The outlook for livestock and meat supplies and prices through the middle of next year will be heavily influenced by developments in the domestic feed situation over the next few months. The grain harvest season is typically a time when many livestock producers plan feeding activities for the upcoming year. Producers make their decisions based on the supply of feed available and probable levels of feed grain prices for the year ahead. Cattle feeders generally place about a third of the annual total of cattle on feed during October-December. Hog producers make decisions during the fall months for March-May farrowings which provide almost a third of the annual pig crop.

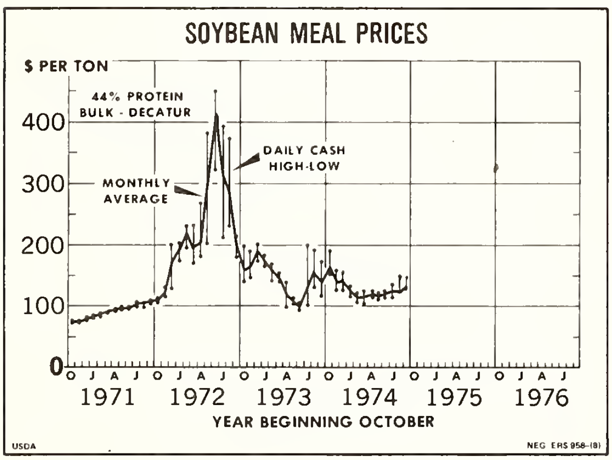
Feed supplies for the 1975/76 marketing year are substantially larger than in 1974/75 when crops were severely damaged by adverse weather. Feed grain production on September 1 this year was estimated to be 201 million tons, up 22 percent from last year. Although down from earlier estimates, the 1975 corn crop may be a record 5.7 billion bushels, also up 22 percent from 1974.

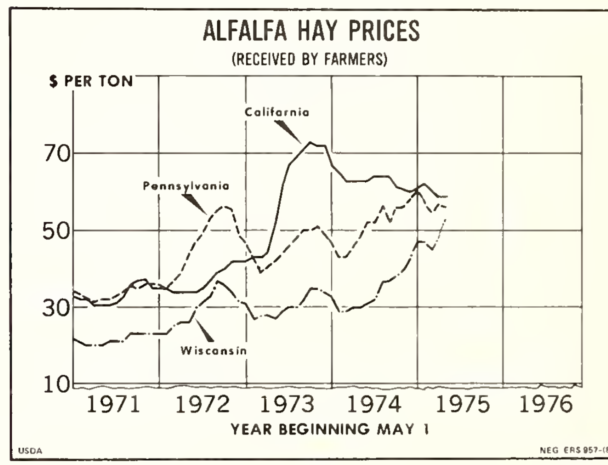
Larger grain supplies usually point to lower feed prices and increased livestock feeding, but conditions this year are rather unique. Carryover stocks from the 1974 crop fell to the lowest level in several years. As a result, the total feed grain supply for 1975/76 is up around 14 percent. Also, short grain crops in other countries around the world added a new dimension to the U.S. livestock feeding economy. Feed grain production shortfalls in the USSR prompted substantial purchases of U.S. feed grains, boosting prices and adding speculation about the possibility of additional sales that might push prices higher.

Prospective grain export demand suggests relatively strong corn prices again this fall. On the basis of the September crop report, Chicago cash corn prices during October-December may run a little below late September levels, but may strengthen if export sales pick up again. No. 2 yellow corn at Chicago in late September was selling just under









$3.00 per bushel compared with nearly $4 in late September 1974. Sluggish feed demand will temper any price increase through the winter. The feed grain supply this year should cover a moderate increase in livestock and poultry feeding in 1975/76, along with expected record large exports.

Although cattle and hog feeding has been profitable for several months, even with the higher feed prices, uncertainty surrounding future livestock prices and the impact on grain prices of possible additional grain export sales have apparently limited the potential for significant expansion in livestock feeding for this fall. However, hog producers have indicated plans for some modest expansion in farrowings this winter, after having reduced farrowings steadily for about 2 years. Also, feeder cattle placements may be turning up again. But because of the heavy losses sustained during the past 2 years, producers may be more cautious about longer-run committments before making further substantial expansion plans. If grain prices rise further during the fall months, current plans for some expanded livestock feeding might be delayed again.

The hay and forage situation is somewhat better this year than last throughout most of the country. The 1975 hay crop is estimated to be over 130 million tons, up 3 percent from last year. Hay prices, however, remain high reflecting the heavy feed requirements for the record inventory of cattle outside feedlots. Farm prices for baled hay in September averaged $50,80 per ton, only about $1 below a year ago when supplies were short, and just under the record high of $56.30 per ton in May.

CATTLE

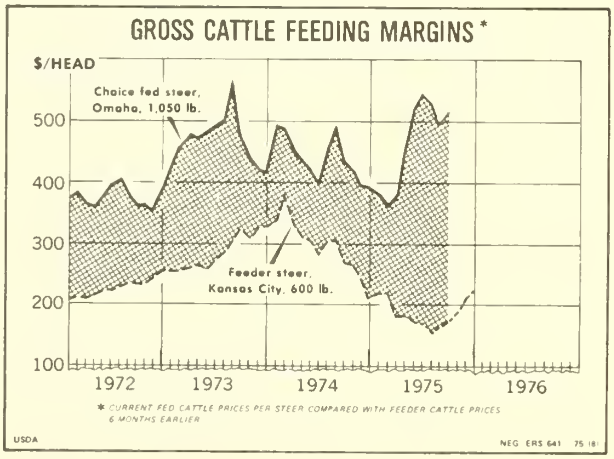
Last spring it appeared that cattle feeding operations had finally reached their lowest level and that a significant expansion was underway. Fed cattle prices rose sharply, feed costs were moving lower, and many feeders began to show profits for the first time in almost 2 years. Improved profit margins and early season prospects for a record harvest prompted significant increases in the movement of feeder cattle into feedlots this spring for the first time in 2 years.

Table 1—Beef supplies and prices

	Commercial cattle slaughter[1]						Average dressed weight	Commercial production	Per capita consumption[2]	Retail	Prices		
	Steers and heifers			Cows	Bulls and stags	Total					Choice Feeders 600-700 lb. Kansas City	Choice Steers Omaha 900-1100 lb.	Farm
	Fed	Non-fed	Total										
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cent/ lb.*	*$/cwt.*	*$/cwt.*	*$/cwt.*
1971: I	6,380	572	6,952	1,500	135	8,587	619	5,300	27.7	100.2	33.57	31.06	27.93
II	6,480	687	7,167	1,586	164	8,917	612	5,445	28.1	104.8	34.50	32.54	29.17
III	6,820	666	7,486	1,614	179	9,279	602	5,574	29.3	105.4	34.84	32.71	29.00
IV	6,380	592	6,972	1,675	155	8,802	613	5,378	27.9	106.6	36.57	33.27	29.83
Year	26,060	2,517	28,577	6,375	633	35,585	611	21,697	113.0	104.2	34.87	32.39	29.00
1972: I	6,630	402	7,032	1,518	148	8,698	619	5,370	28.2	114.4	38.47	35.71	32.40
II	6,930	452	7,382	1,474	166	9,022	619	5,566	28.9	112.3	40.30	36.04	33.33
III	7,140	223	7,363	1,472	180	9,015	618	5,559	29.4	115.3	42.46	36.26	34.07
IV	6,970	395	7,365	1,528	151	9,044	635	5,723	29.6	113.2	44.36	35.12	34.07
Year	27,670	1,472	29,142	5,992	645	35,779	623	22,218	116.1	113.8	41.40	35.78	33.50
1973: I	6,770	146	6,916	1,590	156	8,662	624	5,393	28.0	129.2	50.77	43.28	40.80
II	6,470	86	6,556	1,434	165	8,155	621	5,049	26.2	135.8	53.74	45.84	43.43
III	6,080	204	6,284	1,533	180	7,997	625	4,998	26.8	141.8	57.98	48.57	47.67
IV	6,570	437	7,007	1,691	175	8,873	638	5,648	28.6	135.1	50.20	40.47	40.00
Year	25,890	873	26,763	6,248	676	33,687	626	21,088	109.6	135.5	53.17	44.54	42.80
1974: I	6,100	560	6,660	1,689	165	8,514	638	5,434	28.3	145.1	47.78	45.46	42.83
II	6,430	817	7,247	1,391	179	8,817	639	5,638	28.8	134.5	39.80	40.01	36.37
III	5,680	1,526	7,206	1,913	244	9,363	614	5,751	29.4	141.0	34.64	43.91	34.97
IV	5,670	1,695	7,365	2,521	232	10,118	595	6,021	30.3	134.5	29.31	38.19	28.83
Year	23,880	4,598	28,478	7,514	820	36,812	621	22,844	116.8	138.8	37.88	41.89	35.60
1975: I	5,660	1,632	7,292	2,221	207	9,720	600	5,833	30.2	129.6	27.39	35.72	27.43
II	5,190	1,663	6,853	2,419	276	9,548	586	5,592	28.4	146.5	34.67	48.03	35.60
III	5,250	1,897	7,147	3,043	310	10,500	567	5,950	30.2	156.7	35.01	48.64	34.63
IV													
Year													

[1] Classes estimated. [2] Total including Farm Production.

In July and August some of the optimism faded. Dry conditions plagued the western Corn Belt, lowering crop production prospects. At the same time, the USSR bought large quantities of U.S. feed grains and wheat because of their poor harvest. Feed prices and feeding costs for domestic livestock feeders began to rise. Cattle slaughter rates also picked up to record levels in late summer and fed cattle prices slipped from June highs. Cattle feeders quickly reacted to this turn of events by curtailing plans they had for further expansion in cattle feeding. Placements of feeder cattle in the seven major feeding States during July fell 13 percent from a year earlier and placements in August were up only 4 percent from depressed 1974 levels.

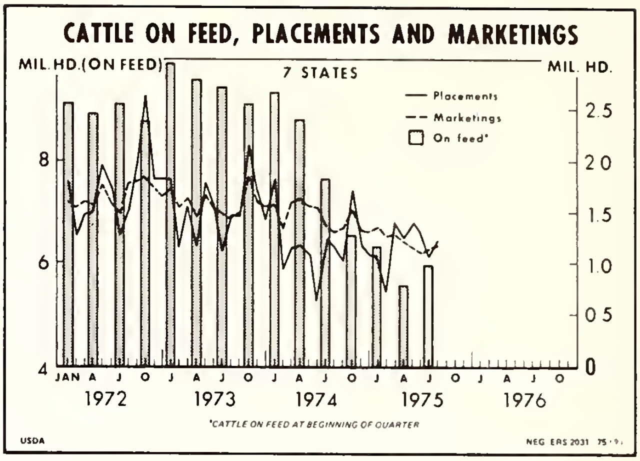


The slowdown in placements during the summer indicates that fed beef output will continue relatively low through the remainder of 1975. Although cattle slaughter during the summer reached record numbers, and even further increases are in prospect for the fall, all the increase has been in nonfed cattle. If feed prices remain up through the fall and increases in placements are held down, the continued low level of fed cattle marketings coupled with seasonally declining nonfed slaughter next spring could produce another sharp rise in fed cattle prices.

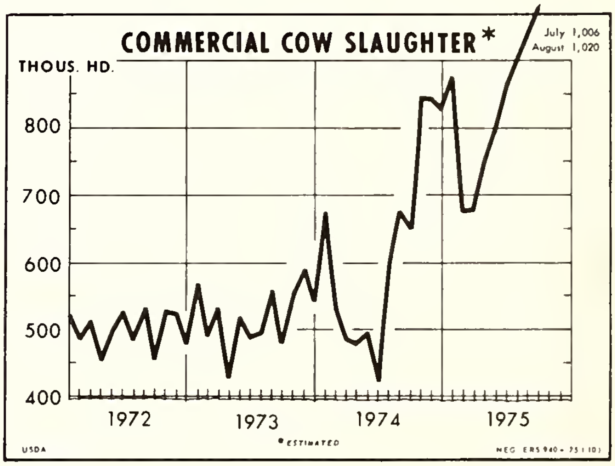
Gross cattle feeding margins[1]

Year	Fed cattle[2]	Feeder cattle[3]	Gross margin
	Dollars per steer	*Dollars per steer*	*Dollars per steer*
1972			
January	374	206	168
February	381	211	170
March	369	210	159
April	362	214	148
May	375	221	154
June	398	223	175
July	403	228	175
August	375	233	142
September	364	232	132
October	367	231	136
November	353	243	110
December	387	252	135
1973			
January	427	252	175
February	457	252	205
March	479	260	219
April	473	265	208
May	480	259	221
June	491	275	216
July	500	284	216
August	556	306	250
September	474	324	150
October	440	311	129
November	421	327	94
December	413	329	84
1974			
January	495	339	156
February	487	374	113
March	450	330	120
April	436	311	125
May	425	306	119
June	399	286	113
July	459	303	156
August	490	305	185
September	434	269	165
October	416	265	151
November	396	241	155
December	391	211	180
1975			
January	382	220	162
February	365	220	145
March	379	183	196
April	449	186	263
May	520	172	348
June	544	170	374
July	527	159	368
Aug.	491	162	329
Sept.	514	172	342

[1] Current fed prices per steer compared with feeder cattle prices 6 months earlier. [2] Choice steers at Omaha, 1,050 lb. [3] Choice steers at Kansas City, 600 lb.



a record 10½ million head, up 13 percent from a year ago and over 400,000 head more than the previous record quarter in the fall of 1974. All of the increase has been in nonfed steers, heifers, and cows. Although range and pasture conditions have been relatively favorable this summer, seasonal increases in cow slaughter began earlier than usual. Estimated commercial cow slaughter jumped from about 870,000 head in June to over 1 million head in July, the largest monthly cow slaughter in recent history. Cow slaughter remained at this higher level through August and September. During the third quarter, cow slaughter made up about 30 percent of the slaughter mix and will total around 3 million head, more than a fourth larger than the second quarter.



Summer Slaughter Large

The cattle industry is now rapidly adjusting to the adverse conditions experienced for over 2 years. Slaughter numbers are record large, but the price impact on the fed cattle market has been moderated by reduced slaughter weights which have held down increases in beef production. Commercial cattle slaughter during July-September totaled

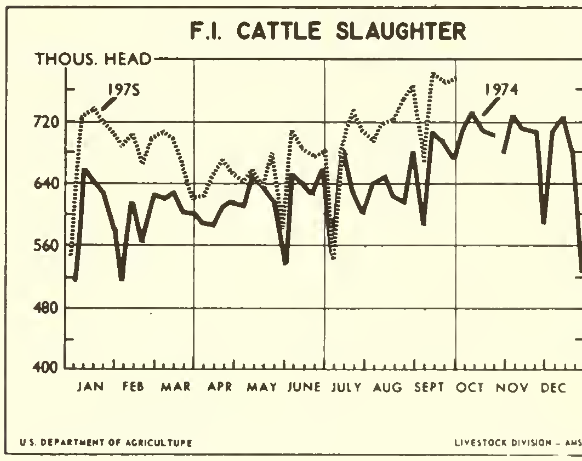
As placements of feeder cattle remained low in July and August, nonfed steer and heifer slaughter continued to rise from the spring. During July-September these nonfed cattle may have numbered about 2 million head, almost 20 percent of the total slaughter. This would be the largest nonfed steer

and heifer slaughter in over 15 years and about 30 percent larger than a year ago, when the sharp increases in nonfed slaughter first began.

Last July, cattle feeders in the 23 States indicated plans to market about 5.2 million fed cattle during July-September, about 5 percent under the summer of 1974 but up slightly from the spring quarter. Judging from fed cattle marketings reported for the seven major feeding States in July and August, actual marketings this summer may fall a little short of earlier plans and may not be too much larger than the 5 million head marketed in April-June. Marketings from the seven States were down from a year earlier by 14 percent in July and 8 percent in August. This suggests only about half the cattle slaughtered during the third quarter came out of feedlots, the smallest proportion in 15 years.

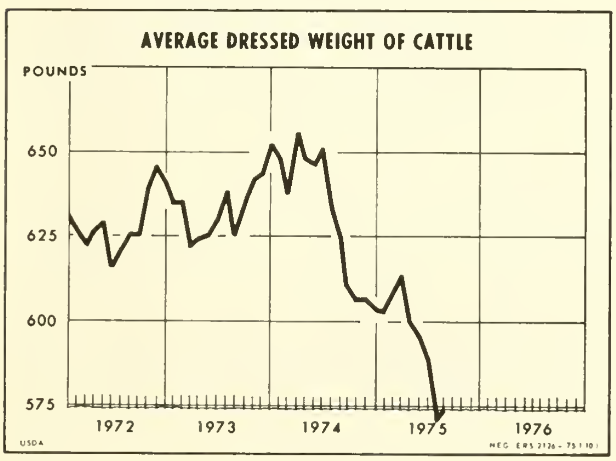
While the number of cattle slaughtered during the summer quarter was up about 13 percent from last year, commercial beef production rose only 2 to 4 percent due to the sharp reduction in average slaughter weights. The average dressed weight of commercial cattle slaughter during July-September may average around 565 pounds, about 20 pounds per carcass less than the second quarter and almost 50 pounds per carcass under a year ago. Average slaughter weights of all classes of cattle are running well below levels of a year ago. The reduced number of fed cattle is contributing most to the overall reduction, but fed cattle probably were also marketed at lighter weights than usual. With the reduced number of cattle on feed, and positive returns on fed cattle being sold, cattle feeders are probably keeping "current" on marketings, so that few cattle are fed longer than necessary after reaching minimum market weight. This is almost the reverse of what happened in the spring of 1974, when fed cattle prices were declining and cattle were held to excessive weights.

The amount of beef graded by USDA also reflects the changing composition of the beef supply. For the 4-week period ending August 16, USDA graded 27 percent less beef tonnage than during the same period in 1974. The amount of beef graded Prime was down 43 percent, Choice down 28 percent, and Good grade down 16 percent.



Fed cattle prices held up well during the summer, even though weekly F.I. slaughter rates, including fed and nonfed cattle, grew to record levels of almost 800,000 head. Choice steers at Omaha peaked in early June at $53 per 100 pounds, then trended slightly lower in July and August as total slaughter rates picked up. By late September, prices had picked up again to around $49 per 100 pounds on most markets. Premium prices were paid for heavier, higher grade cattle. Although in limited supply, heavy Choice and Prime grade cattle in the Midwest were selling $2-$3 per 100 pounds above lightweight Choice steers. Good grade cattle generally were selling $5-$7 below the Choice grade.

While cow prices are still low in comparison with recent years, cow prices this summer have



Utility cow prices per 100 pounds, Omaha

Month	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
January	20.93	19.98	22.61	26.67	31.45	16.82
February ...	22.18	20.98	23.80	31.43	32.65	18.18
March	23.24	22.03	24.73	33.90	31.76	19.45
April	23.23	21.48	24.70	33.59	30.49	21.67
May	22.64	22.30	25.51	34.26	27.67	23.55
June	22.58	22.03	26.00	33.09	26.39	23.32
July	20.85	21.68	26.22	34.21	24.22	22.00
August	20.48	21.72	26.18	37.56	24.54	21.29
September ..	21.13	21.84	26.57	34.58	22.56	22.45
October	20.84	22.30	26.19	33.68	19.68	
November ...	19.04	21.45	24.98	30.71	17.62	
December ...	18.77	21.64	25.02	30.10	17.67	
Average ...	21.32	21.62	25.21	32.82	25.56	

held up unusually well under pressure of record cow slaughter. Utility cow prices at Omaha, for example, rose from around $17 per 100 pounds in early 1975 to $23.50 in May. Prices settled back to around $22 in July-August, but by late September some strength in feeder cattle, fed cattle, and hog prices pulled cow prices back up to around $23.

Feedlot Placements Dip, Then Turn Up

The movement of cattle into feedlots during July and August slowed from spring levels as fed cattle prices eased lower and feed prices rose. Although cattle feeding remained generally profitable during the summer, placements in the seven major feeding States fell 13 percent in July and rose only 4 percent from year earlier in August. Marketings of cattle from feedlots in the seven States during the summer about matched placements, and cattle on feed inventories remained largely unchanged. However, the inventory of cattle on feed September 1 in the seven States was only 13 percent under a year earlier, compared with a 41 percent reduction last March.

Although placements recovered some in August, the relatively low level of placements reflected the uncertain price outlook surrounding both feed grain and fed cattle prices. During periods of highly variable prices, especially following a period of financial losses, larger than normal feeding margins may be required to boost feeding. After sustaining substantial financial losses for a period of about 20 months, partly due to high feed costs, feeders have been hesitant to fill lots while grain markets were unsettled.

However, judging from the stronger feeder cattle market during September coupled with reports of substantial increases in the movement of feeder cattle in some regions, placements during September may have been up sharply from July and August levels. Some stability in the grain market along with a strong fed cattle market in the face of record slaughter numbers may have prompted some early fall optimism.

7 States Cattle on Feed, Placements and Marketings

Year	On feed	Change, previous year	Placements	Change, previous year	Marketings	Change, previous year
	1,000 head	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
1972						
Jan. . . .	9,110	+10.8	1,785	+1.4	1,602	+0.9
Feb. . . .	9,293	+9.5	1,268	+15.0	1,540	+10.4
Mar. . . .	9,021	+10.1	1,485	-0.2	1,572	-0.6
Apr. . . .	8,934	+12.7	1,492	+6.6	1,546	+4.0
May . . .	8,880	+10.9	1,953	+22.9	1,758	+17.2
June . .	9,075	+12.0	1,721	+23.7	1,679	+5.2
July . . .	9,117	+17.3	1,277	+4.0	1,480	-5.2
Aug. . .	8,914	+18.0	1,549	+1.3	1,782	+8.8
Sept. . .	8,681	+16.7	1,893	-4.6	1,794	+4.9
Oct. . . .	8,780	+15.1	2,638	+8.2	1,840	+13.1
Nov. . .	9,578	+13.5	1,833	-3.8	1,735	+13.1
Dec. . . .	9,676	+9.8	1,836	+5.9	1,628	+13.4
1973						
Jan. . . .	9,884	+8.5	1,830	+2.5	1,721	+7.4
Feb. . . .	9,993	+7.5	1,183	-6.7	1,541	+0
Mar. . . .	9,635	+6.8	1,563	+5.3	1,623	+3.2
Apr. . . .	9,575	+7.2	1,186	-20.5	1,440	-6.9
May . . .	9,321	+5.0	1,785	-8.6	1,688	-4.0
June . .	9,418	+3.8	1,596	-7.3	1,557	-7.3
July . . .	9,457	+3.7	1,133	-11.3	1,498	+1.2
Aug. . .	9,092	+2.0	1,469	-5.2	1,410	-20.9
Sept. . .	9,151	+5.4	1,446	-23.6	1,490	-16.9
Oct. . . .	9,107	+3.7	2,133	-19.1	1,773	-3.6
Nov. . .	9,467	-1.2	1,647	-10.1	1,639	-5.5
Dec. . . .	9,475	-2.1	1,411	-23.1	1,533	-5.8
1974						
Jan. . . .	9,353	-5.4	1,837	+0.4	1,558	-9.5
Feb. . . .	9,632	-3.6	956	-19.2	1,340	-13.0
Mar. . . .	9,248	-4.0	1,132	-27.8	1,577	-2.8
Apr. . . .	8,803	-8.1	1,177	-0.8	1,629	+13.1
May . . .	8,351	-10.4	1,085	-39.2	1,551	-8.1
June . .	7,885	-16.3	801	-49.8	1,540	-1.1
July . . .	7,146	-24.4	1,218	+7.5	1,357	-9.4
Aug. . .	7,007	-22.9	1,149	-21.8	1,301	-7.7
Sept. . .	6,855	-25.1	1,041	-28.0	1,324	-11.1
Oct. . . .	6,572	-27.8	1,741	-18.4	1,517	-14.4
Nov. . .	6,796	-28.2	1,168	-29.1	1,338	-18.4
Dec. . . .	6,626	-30.1	1,087	-23.0	1,344	-12.3
1975						
Jan. . . .	6,369	-31.9	1,063	-42.1	1,382	-11.3
Feb. . . .	6,050	-37.2	747	-21.9	1,316	-1.8
Mar. . . .	5,481	-40.7	1,448	+27.9	1,331	-15.6
Apr. . . .	5,598	-36.4	1,251	+6.3	1,260	-22.7
May . . .	5,589	-33.1	1,424	+31.2	1,172	-24.4
June . .	5,841	-25.9	1,313	+63.9	1,148	-25.5
July . . .	6,006	-16.0	1,090	-10.5	1,164	-14.2
Aug. . .	5,932	-15.3	1,216	+5.8	1,199	-7.8
Sept. . .	5,949	-13.2				

Fall Slaughter to be Record Large

Although the slowdown in placements during July and August will hold fed cattle marketings somewhat below earlier expectations this fall, marketings may still be up from the low spring and summer levels and could approach the 5½ million head marketed during October-December 1974. However, major increases in slaughter from a year ago are likely from the cow herd as movement off grass reaches seasonal peaks during October. Cow slaughter usually rises from summer to fall as producers cull herds before supplemental winter feeding is required. Seasonal increases in cow slaughter began earlier than usual this year and likely will continue unabated through yearend. If so, cow slaughter in the second half of 1975 would be larger than the entire year of 1972.

Feed grain prices this fall will have a bearing on how many feeder cattle are placed on feed or slaughtered. A sharp decline in feed prices, for example, could prompt a substantial increase in placements on feed, which would reduce nonfed steer and heifer slaughter and strengthen fed cattle prices. If feed prices remain high, however, placements could still grow a little, but nonfed steer and heifer slaughter numbers might still be as large as a year ago.

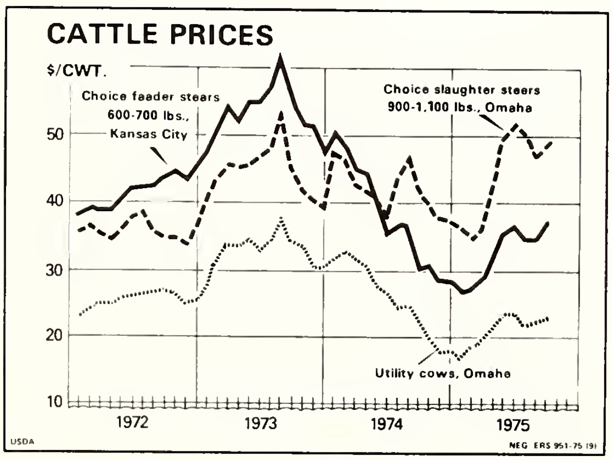
Table 2—Corn Belt Cattle Feeding

Selected expenses at current rates[1]

Purchased during / Marketed during	July / Jan. 75	Aug. / Feb.	Sept. / Mar.	Oct. / Apr.	Nov. / May	Dec. / June	Jan. 75 / July	Feb. / Aug.	Mar. / Sept.	Apr. / Oct.	May / Nov.	June / Dec.	July / Jan. 76	Aug. / Feb.	Sept. / Mar.
	Dollars per head	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*
Expenses															
600 lb. feeder steer	220.32	220.20	182.94	185.64	172.26	169.62	158.70	161.76	172.50	190.14	213.00	220.86	208.20	206.04	225.54
Transportation to feedlot (400 miles)	5.04	5.04	5.04	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28	5.28
Corn (45 bu.)	134.10	152.55	148.05	157.05	148.50	147.60	137.70	128.70	121.05	120.60	119.70	120.60	122.40	133.20	124.20
Silage (1.7 tons)	33.95	38.71	37.93	40.26	39.47	41.62	40.17	38.05	37.11	37.23	36.70	35.68	35.12	37.93	36.86
30% protein supplement (270 lb.)	21.60	26.60	24.84	26.73	25.78	25.38	24.57	23.22	22.14	22.95	22.82	22.82	22.82	23.76	24.30
Hay (400 lb.)	6.15	7.05	7.10	7.55	8.16	9.80	10.10	9.80	10.16	10.30	10.05	9.20	8.70	9.10	9.55
Labor (4 hours)	9.44	9.44	9.44	9.84	9.84	9.84	9.52	9.52	9.52	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.40	8.76	8.76
Management[2]	4.72	4.72	4.72	4.92	4.92	4.92	4.76	4.76	4.76	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.38	4.38
Vet medicine[3]	2.72	2.80	2.84	2.86	2.89	2.91	2.90	2.89	2.88	2.92	2.95	2.98	2.99	3.00	3.03
Interest on purchase (6 mo.)	11.57	11.56	9.60	9.75	9.04	8.90	8.33	8.49	9.06	9.51	10.65	11.04	10.41	9.79	10.71
Power, equip, fuel, shelter, depreciation[3]	12.56	12.93	13.13	13.22	13.37	13.44	13.52	13.48	13.42	13.61	13.74	13.88	13.94	14.01	14.14
Death loss (1% of purchase)	2.20	2.20	1.83	1.86	1.72	1.70	1.59	1.62	1.72	1.90	2.13	2.21	2.08	2.06	2.26
Transportation (100 miles)	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31
Marketing expenses	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
Miscellaneous & indirect costs[3]	5.43	5.59	5.68	5.72	5.78	5.81	5.85	5.83	5.80	5.89	5.94	6.00	6.03	6.06	6.11
Total	475.36	504.95	458.70	476.34	452.67	452.48	428.65	419.06	421.06	438.59	461.22	468.81	456.23	469.03	480.78
	Dollars per cwt.	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*
Selling price/cwt. required to cover feed and feeder costs (1050 lb.)	39.63	42.39	38.18	39.74	37.54	37.53	35.36	34.43	34.57	36.31	38.31	38.97	37.83	39.05	40.04
Selling price/cwt. required to cover all costs (1050 lb.)	45.27	48.09	43.69	45.37	43.11	43.09	40.82	39.91	40.10	41.77	43.93	44.65	43.45	44.67	45.79
Feed cost per 100 lb. gain	43.51	49.98	48.43	51.46	49.31	49.87	47.23	44.39	42.32	42.46	42.06	41.84	42.01	45.33	43.31
Choice steers, Omaha	36.27	34.80	36.08	43.01	49.60	51.82	50.21	46.80	48.91						
Net margin/cwt.	-9.00	-13.29	-7.61	-2.36	+6.49	+8.73	+9.39	+6.89	+8.81						
Prices															
Feeder steer choice (600-700 lb., Kansas City/cwt.)	36.72	36.70	30.49	30.94	28.71	28.27	26.45	26.96	28.75	31.69	35.50	36.81	34.70	34.34	37.59
Corn/bu.[4]	2.98	3.39	3.29	3.49	3.30	3.28	3.06	2.86	2.69	2.68	2.66	2.68	2.72	2.96	2.76
Hay/ton[4]	30.75	35.25	35.50	37.75	40.75	49.00	50.50	49.00	50.75	51.50	50.25	46.00	42.75	45.50	47.75
Corn silage /ton[5]	19.97	22.77	22.31	23.68	23.22	24.48	23.63	22.38	21.83	21.90	21.59	20.99	20.66	22.31	21.68
30%, Protein supplement/cwt.[6]	8.00	9.85	9.20	9.90	9.55	9.40	9.10	8.60	8.20	8.50	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.80	8.90
Farm Labor/hour[6]	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.19	2.19
Interest annual rate	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.50
Transportation rate/cwt. 100 mile	.21	.21	.21	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Marketing expenses[8]	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100)	573	590	599	603	610	613	617	615	612	621	627	633	636	639	645

[1] Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed ration and expense items do not necessarily coincide with experience of individual feeders. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level and locality of operation. [2] Assumes one hour at twice the labor rate. [3] Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes and wage rates. [4] Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [5] Corn silage price derived from an equivalent price of 5 bushels corn and 330 lb. hay. [6] Average price paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [7] Converted from cents/mile for a 44,000 pound haul. [8] Yardage plus commission fees at a midwest terminal market.

If nonfed slaughter remains up as expected this fall, commercial cattle slaughter during October-December could exceed a record 10½ million head. As in the summer, the small number of fed cattle in total slaughter will hold average weights down from last year, and percentage increases in beef production will not keep pace with percentage increases in slaughter. While average dressed weights could rise seasonally by a small amount this fall, they are not likely to approach weights expected earlier. Although somewhat below earlier expectations beef production during the fourth quarter may still be record large. Fed cattle prices during October-December could move somewhat lower than the summer level as cattle marketings reach yearly peaks. It now appears that average prices for Choice steers at Omaha could range in the mid $40's during October-December, a little below the third quarter average of $49. Rising feed costs could temporarily depress fed cattle prices below expectations during the fall as nonfed slaughter grows in response to limited feedlot demand for the large supply of feeder cattle available.



Choice steer prices per 100 pounds, Omaha[1]

Month	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
January	28.38	29.10	35.63	40.65	47.14	36.34
February ...	29.30	32.18	36.32	43.54	46.38	34.74
March	30.99	31.89	35.17	45.65	42.85	36.08
April	30.79	32.41	34.52	45.03	41.53	42.80
May	29.57	32.86	35.70	45.74	40.52	49.48
June	30.36	32.35	37.91	46.76	37.98	51.82
July	31.12	32.44	38.38	47.66	43.72	50.21
August	30.09	33.10	35.70	52.94	46.62	46.80
September ..	29.21	32.58	34.69	45.12	41.38	48.91
October	28.47	32.22	34.92	41.92	39.64	
November ...	27.22	33.30	33.59	40.14	37.72	
December ...	26.82	34.28	36.85	39.36	37.20	
Average	29.36	32.39	35.78	44.54	41.89	

[1] 900-1,100 lb.

In the unlikely event that feed grain prices move sharply lower in early fall and cattle feeders boost placements immediately, nonfed slaughter might fall short of expectations and reduce beef output accordingly. Under these conditions, considering the restricted supply of pork, fed cattle prices would move up, and could top midyear peak levels before yearend. More fed beef in early 1976, however, would moderate price increases when nonfed slaughter seasonally declines.

Feeder Cattle Prices Hold Up

After gaining about $10 per 100 pounds between March and June, feeder cattle prices slipped lower in July and August, reflecting the large feeder cattle supply and the restricted feedlot demand for replacements. Rising feed costs during the summer raised the cost of gain, and cattle feeders were able to buy heavier feeder cattle coming off pastures cheaper than buying calves and putting on weight in the feedlot. At Kansas City, Choice 600-700 pound feeders fell from mid-June peaks of around $37.50 to $34 by the end of August. Lighter weight feeders sold for a $3-$5 per 100 pound discount.

Feeder cattle prices per 100 pounds, Kansas City

Month	Choice feeder steers 600-700 lbs.			Choice feeder steer calves[1]		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
Jan.	47.33	50.58	26.45	51.95	54.66	25.09
Feb.	50.98	47.95	26.96	56.10	54.45	26.29
Mar.	54.01	44.81	28.75	62.72	54.02	29.14
Apr.	51.82	44.15	31.69	60.42	50.30	31.45
May	54.55	40.14	35.50	62.59	45.48	34.66
June	54.85	35.10	36.81	62.42	39.96	35.82
July	56.49	36.72	34.70	64.40	37.72	32.58
Aug.	62.40	36.70	34.34	72.52	36.84	31.70
Sept.	55.06	30.49	37.59	62.80	32.40	35.15
Oct.	51.86	30.94		59.46	30.47	
Nov.	51.02	28.71		56.42	27.31	
Dec.	47.71	28.27		52.59	26.54	
Av.	53,17	37.88		60.36	40.84	

[1] 400-500 lbs.

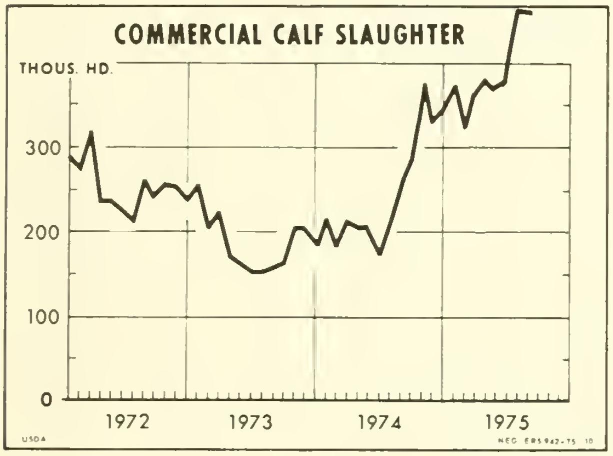
Feeder cattle prices strengthened in September, with Choice feeders at Kansas City moving up to a 1975 peak of around $38. Late summer strength may reflect some renewed optimism about future fed cattle prices and some increases in feedlot demand. In mid-September fed cattle futures contracts for fall delivery had risen to around $48, allowing some hedgers to lock in a profit.

Developments in the feed grain market will heavily influence feeder cattle price movements this fall. Rising feed prices would tend to reduce demand for replacement cattle, while lower feeding costs could improve feedlot demand. Feed prices

may have to trend lower for any substantial increase in placements during October-December, but if this occurs, feeder cattle prices could show some improvement from September and run around $40 per 100 pounds for Choice grade yearlings on midwestern markets. Price discounts on calves might then be reduced. An uptrend in feed prices, however, could hold feeder prices below $35 for yearlings and below $30 for lightweight feeders. Feeder cattle prices in the Southeast States likely will continue well below those in midwestern markets as distance from major feeding centers restricts demand for southeastern feeder cattle. Most feedlot operators have been able to fill feeder cattle requirements in their local area. Feeder cattle at Georgia auctions in late September were selling $6-$8 per 100 pounds below Kansas City prices.

Calf Slaughter Grows

The high cost of grain and the plentiful supply of heavier feeder cattle has severely restricted demand for calves over the past several months and calf slaughter has grown sharply. First half 1975 commercial calf slaughter totaled 2.2 million head, up 84 percent from 1974, and continued sharp increases are underway in the last half of 1975. Calf slaughter this year could total over 4.5 million head, up 50 percent from last year and the largest since 1969. Veal calves on most markets in late September were selling at yearly lows of $30-$36 per 100 pounds. Choice 100-250 pound veal calves at South St. Paul sold around $37 in January and peaked in April at $47 before moving lower in the summer. In September Choice slaughter calves on this market were selling around $36, $7 below September 1974.



Higher Prices Next Spring

Fed cattle marketings have been declining from year-earlier levels since the second quarter of 1973, and in mid-1975 dropped to the lowest level in 10 years. Fed cattle marketings in 1975 may fall 8-10 percent short of last year. Meanwhile, total cattle slaughter has reached all-time highs, as cattle from the record large and growing cattle herd have moved to slaughter from grass. High feed costs not only discourage feeding, but depress feeder cattle prices. The break in feeder cattle prices last year signaled the end of an expansion phase in the cow herd, and cow slaughter picked up sharply in the past 12 months.

Nonfed steer and heifer slaughter this year may total around 7 million head, up about 50 percent from 1974. Cow slaughter in 1975 may be up 40 percent or more, and calf slaughter will be more than half again as large as 1974. The continued sharp increase in slaughter of grass cattle during 1975 has been the only factor maintaining beef production, which has moderated rises in fed cattle prices in the face of sharply reduced fed beef supplies. But this situation may soon begin to change.

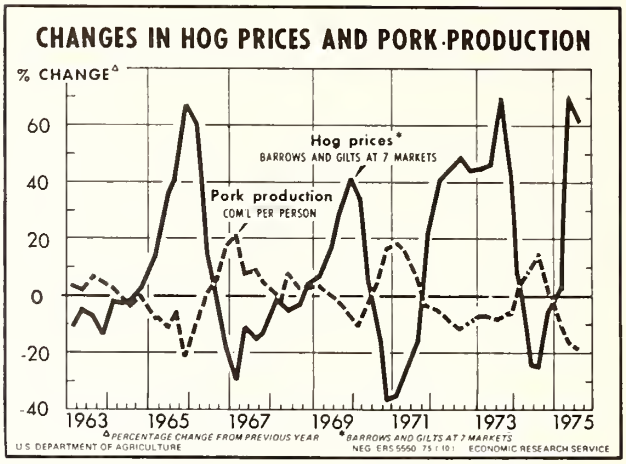
Cow Inventories and Slaughter

	Inventory	Slaughter[1]	Slaughter inventory
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
1971			
Jan. 1	49,786	3,086	6.2
July 1	50,531	3,289	6.5
1972			
Jan. 1	50,585	2,992	5.9
July 1	51,664	3,000	5.8
1973			
Jan. 1	52,541	3,024	5.8
July 1	53,943	3,224	6.0
1974			
Jan. 1	54,293	3,080	5.7
July 1	56,763	4,434	7.8
1975			
Jan. 1	56,637	4,640	8.2
July 1	58,049	[2] 6,200	10.7
1976			
Jan. 1[2]	55,700	5,600	10.1

[1] Estimated commercial cow slaughter in the 6 months suceeding the inventory. [2] Forecast.

Given the slaughter levels expected for the remainder of 1975, the total cattle herd may stop increasing in number, and could possibly turn down by January 1, 1976. The same is possible for the cow herd. If feed costs remain up through the fall harvest season and fed cattle prices trend slightly lower, as expected, squeezed feeding margins might hold back significant expansion in fall placements and keep nonfed steer and heifer slaughter large. Fed cattle marketings in early 1976 could exceed this year's level but would remain relatively low. However, seasonal declines in nonfed slaughter in

late winter and spring would then produce another spurt in fed cattle prices. Then if feed prices were to begin moving lower, feeding margins could be quite favorable. As a result, nonfed steer and heifer slaughter could decline even more than usual, as more of these cattle are placed on feed. Under these conditions fed cattle prices by late winter and early spring could surpass 1975 peak levels. Lower feed prices and favorable feeding margins could then provide the first positive indications of solid recovery in the feeder cattle market.



HOGS

Hog producers are beginning to react to record high hog prices and favorable feeding margins. The September 1 quarterly survey of producers in 14 States indicates reductions in sows farrowing for the balance of 1975 will not be as large as earlier planned, and some expansion in farrowings is in prospect for this winter. However, even though producers are now beginning to respond, pork production through early 1976 will continue below depressed year-earlier levels. A planned increase in the December-February pig crop will not result in increased pork production before the summer of next year.

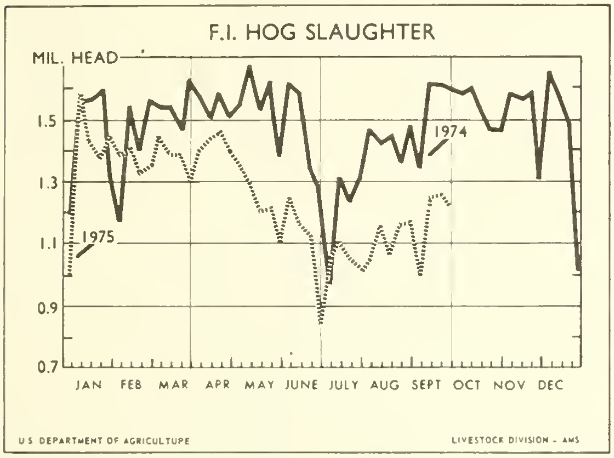
Hog slaughter so far in 1975 has trailed year-earlier levels every month. At 36.6 million head, first half commercial slaughter was 11 percent below the total of a year earlier. With grain prices remaining relatively high, average dressed weights also declined from the unusually heavy levels observed during the first two quarters of 1974, and

Table 3—Pork supplies and prices

Year	Estimated commercial slaughter[1]				Average dressed weight	Commercial production	Per capita consumption[2]	Prices		
	Barrows and gilts	Sows	Boars	Total				Retail	Barrows and gilts 7 markets	Farm
	1,000 head				*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cents per lb.*	*$/cwt.*	*$/cwt.*
1971: I ...	22,812	1,270	174	24,256	151	3,671	18.3	69.2	17.60	17.10
II ...	21,938	1,452	220	23,610	156	3,678	17.8	68.8	17.33	16.80
III ...	20,524	1,570	214	22,308	154	3,441	18.0	71.3	19.27	18.47
IV ...	22,499	1,563	202	24,264	157	3,816	18.9	71.9	20.06	19.33
Year	87,773	5,855	810	94,438	155	14,606	73.0	70.3	18.45	17.50
1972: I ...	21,029	1,053	178	22,260	157	3,503	17.7	79.0	24.67	23.90
II ...	20,055	1,135	199	21,389	158	3,386	16.6	79.9	25.00	24.33
III ...	17,943	1,305	193	19,441	158	3,064	15.8	86.1	28.85	27.87
IV ...	19,944	1,495	178	21,617	162	3,507	17.3	87.7	28.89	27.93
Year	78,971	4,988	748	84,707	159	13,460	67.4	83.2	26.67	25.10
1973: I ...	18,949	1,080	195	20,224	161	3,262	16.0	98.1	35.63	34.50
II ...	18,274	998	206	19,478	163	3,178	15.4	103.1	36.82	35.90
III ...	15,482	1,190	203	16,875	165	2,791	14.0	121.8	49.04	47.13
IV ...	18,842	1,195	181	20,218	166	3,347	16.2	116.1	40.96	39.87
Year	71,547	4,463	785	76,795	164	12,578	61.6	109.8	40.27	38.40
1974: I ...	18,887	1,075	187	20,149	168	3,378	16.7	115.2	38.40	38.13
II ...	19,659	1,174	181	21,014	168	3,531	17.2	99.3	28.00	27.03
III ...	17,699	1,802	204	19,705	165	3,243	16.1	107.4	36.59	34.63
IV ...	19,124	1,588	182	20,894	164	3,431	16.6	111.0	39.06	37.40
Year	75,369	5,639	754	81,762	166	13,583	66.6	108.2	35.12	34.20
1975: I ...	17,707	886	162	18,755	162	3,044	15.0	114.4	39.35	38.30
II ...	16,708	937	165	17,810	164	2,914	13.6	123.1	46.11	43.90
III ...	14,232	998	170	15,400	162	2,500	12.5	150.0	58.83	56.20
IV ...										
Year										

[1] Classes estimated. [2] Total including farm production.

commercial pork production through mid-1975 fell 14 percent from a year earlier. Farrowings during the first half of this year fell more than 20 percent below December-May 1974, producing the smallest spring pig crop in 40 years. Second half hog slaughter and pork production, reflecting this small pig crop, are running 20-25 percent below a year ago.

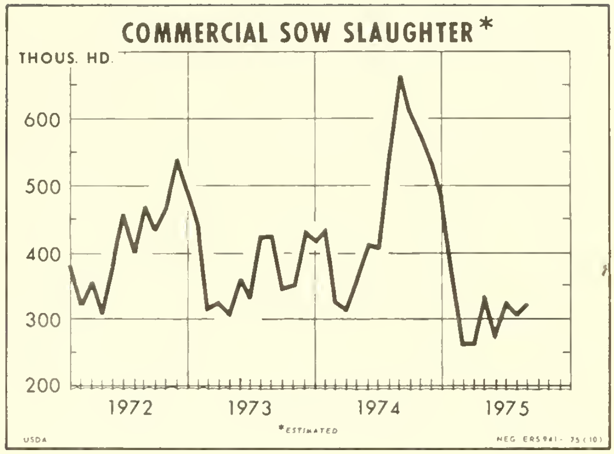


Hog prices quickly gained momentum during the year reflecting the sharply reduced supplies. Barrows and gilts at seven markets rose from \$39 per hundred pounds in January and reached \$65 on some markets in late September.

Hog Slaughter Moves Still Lower

Commercial hog slaughter during the third quarter will total approximately 15½ million head, down 21-23 percent from the year-earlier level and the smallest summer quarter slaughter since 1954. Carcass weights held near those of a year earlier with commercial production for the July-September period also down 22-23 percent from the 3.2 billion pounds of a year earlier.

Restricted slaughter supplies during the summer can be traced back to the liquidation of breeding stock which began in the summer of 1974, a period marked by a drought-damaged corn crop, record grain prices, and squeezed feeding margins. With hog producers concentrated in the Corn Belt, many farmer-feeders who harvested a crop found the cash grain market a profitable alternative to hog feeding and began to cut back, or liquidate their hog operations. The December 1974 survey of producers revealed intentions to reduce farrowings during December 1974-February 1975 by 14 percent. Although grain prices moved somewhat lower during the winter months, farrowings in the surveyed States were actually cut 21 percent from a year earlier. This reduced December 1974-February 1975 pig crop largely set potential slaughter for the third quarter of this year.



Hog Slaughter May Increase Seasonally

Hog slaughter generally increases in the fall from the summer low, reflecting the seasonal patterns of farrowings. Most of the hogs slaughtered during October-December are market hogs weighing 60-180 pounds on September 1—largely the March-May pig crop. This year there were 22 percent fewer hogs in this weight group on farms in the 14 States surveyed. If slaughter is reduced as much as suggested by the inventory data, the fourth quarter total would be down more than 20 percent from a year earlier and total around 16 to 16½ million head. This is about in line with earlier expectations and would suggest a somewhat normal seasonal pattern of marketings with slaughter increasing around 4 to 6 percent from the third quarter.

If feeding margins this fall are maintained near the present record levels, or if feeding costs decline, producers might be encouraged to increase finish weights of slaughter hogs a little above the normal seasonal average. Commercial pork production during the fourth quarter may be up 7 to 9 percent from the third quarter, but still fall 20 to 22 percent short of the year-earlier level.

If fourth quarter slaughter and production meet expectations, commercial hog slaughter for 1975 could total around 67-69 million head, down 16 to 18 percent from 1974. Annual pork production may total 11.1 to 11.3 billion pounds with dressed weights averaging about a pound per head below last year. This would represent a decline of 17 to 18 percent from 1974 and the lowest annual pork production since 1966.

Hog Prices to Stay Up

Restricted supplies of pork coupled with little expansion in beef production during the spring and early summer pushed market hog prices to record levels during August and September as barrows and gilts at seven midwestern markets topped \$60

Hog prices per 100 pounds, 7 markets[1]

Month	Barrows and gilts			Sows		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
Jan.	32.54	40.59	38.93	26.39	33.93	35.01
Feb.	36.23	39.73	39.61	31.22	34.21	36.52
Mar.	38.13	34.88	39.52	34.47	31.42	36.58
Apr.	35.56	30.52	40.69	32.33	26.60	37.00
May	36.35	26.09	46.44	32.46	21.52	41.12
June	38.55	27.40	51.19	33.87	21.37	44.28
July	46.64	36.31	57.17	40.56	28.12	49.74
Aug.	56.68	37.67	58.10	50.62	29.66	51.89
Sept.	43.79	35.79	61.23	40.34	29.04	54.56
Oct.	42.12	38.90		37.66	33.39	
Nov.	40.97	38.34		36.14	33.57	
Dec.	39.79	39.93		32.53	33.78	
Av.	40.27	35.12		35.94	29.92	

[1] Average for all weights at Midwest markets.

per hundredweight. Market hogs in late September reached $65 on some markets. Third quarter prices averaged near $59, exceeding by $10 the previous record quarter of July-September 1973, and up $13 from the second quarter average.

Considering the relatively short supply of pork expected for the remainder of this year and normal seasonal increases in demand, hog prices could remain near record levels through the fourth quarter. With a smaller than usual seasonal increase in pork production of 7 to 9 percent over the summer low, larger beef and broiler output may serve only to dampen further price increases. If pork demand holds up this fall, barrows and gilts at seven markets could average close to recent price levels, perhaps around $60-$62 per 100 pounds. This type of price pattern would be similar to the fall of 1974 when hog prices rose $2.50 from the summer to fall even through pork production rose 6 percent from the third to the fourth quarter, beef output was up 5 percent, and fed cattle prices fell almost $6 per 100 pounds.

Hog price weakness during the fall is possible if supplies of competing meats are larger than now seems likely. With a record number of cattle remaining outside feedlots, nonfed beef production could be large if continued high and unstable grain prices delay any significant increase in cattle feeding during the fourth quarter. While pork supplies will not be particularly large during the rest of the year, substantial increases in lower grade beef production and lower trending beef prices might then pull hog prices below $60.

With pork production for 1975 down possibly 17 to 18 percent from last year and red meat output trailing the 1974 production level by 4 to 5 percent, the yearly average price for barrows and gilts at seven markets will be record high, possibly averaging around $15-$17 above the 1974 average of $35 per hundredweight.

Slaughter Reductions to Continue

Significant increases in pork production are not likely until the last half of 1976. If hog producers carry out reported intentions to reduce farrowings this fall, the June-November pig crop could be reduced by around 10 percent from a year earlier and be the smallest since 1954. In this event, further but more moderate reductions in hog slaughter are in prospect for the first half 1976.

The June survey of producers in the 14 major States revealed intentions to reduce June-November farrowings from a year earlier by 14 percent, with a 17 percent reduction during June-August and a 12 percent cut during September-November. While the September survey would indicate farrowings during June-August were about in line with earlier reported intentions, plans to reduce farrowings during the fall quarter have been tempered by improved feeding margins. Most of the decisions affecting June-August farrowings were made during February through April, prior to sharp increases in hog prices. While feed grain prices were moving lower during this period, relatively high levels were maintained. The hog-corn price ratio, a traditional measure of profitability in

Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha basis

Month	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
January	11.0	19.7	21.5	14.8	12.6
February	13.2	20.6	23.3	13.4	14.1
March	11.6	19.0	25.4	12.5	14.3
April	11.3	18.2	23.4	12.1	14.1
May	11.8	19.7	19.5	10.2	16.4
June	12.2	21.5	16.9	10.0	17.9
July	13.9	22.8	19.9	11.2	19.4
August	15.1	23.5	20.8	10.5	18.5
September	16.3	22.6	18.4	10.3	20.6
October	17.2	21.8	17.8	10.6	
November	16.7	20.6	16.9	11.0	
December	16.6	20.5	15.7	11.8	
Average	13.6	20.6	19.3	11.6	

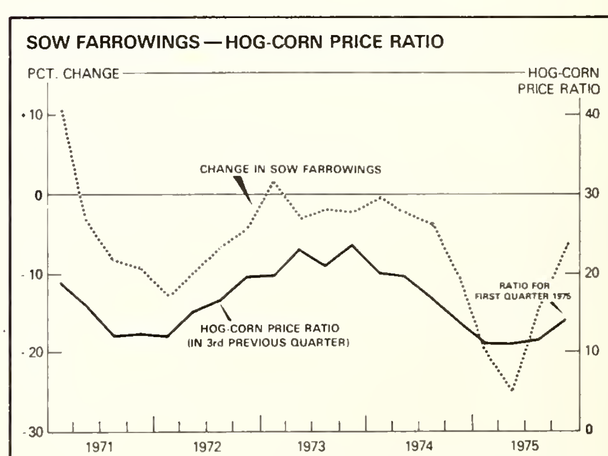


Table 4—Corn Belt Hog Feeding[1]

Selected costs at current rates[2]

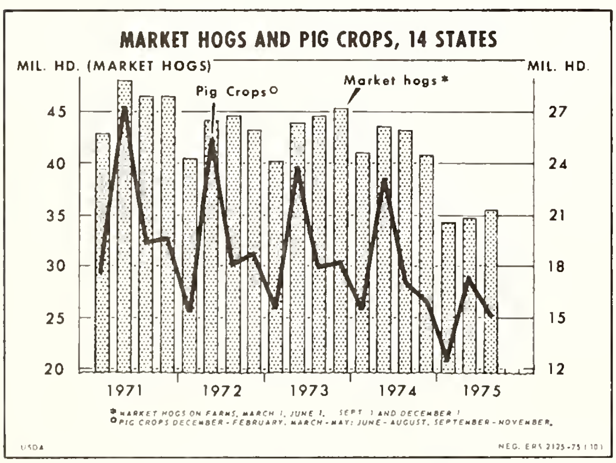
Purchased during / Marketed during	July / Nov.	Aug. / Dec.	Sept. / Jan. 75	Oct. / Feb.	Nov. / Mar.	Dec. / Apr.	Jan. 75 / May	Feb. / June	Mar. / July	Apr. / Aug.	May / Sept.	June / Oct.	July / Nov.	Aug. / Dec.	Sept. / Jan. 76
	Dollars per head	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*	*Dollars per head*
Expenses:															
40 lb. feeder pig	20.31	19.44	18.75	24.10	21.13	25.75	30.10	35.75	39.75	43.05	44.00	44.65	44.10	46.75	58.81
Corn (11 bu.)	32.78	37.29	36.19	38.39	36.30	36.08	33.66	31.46	29.59	29.48	29.26	29.48	29.92	32.56	30.36
Protein supplement (130 lb.)	12.48	15.80	13.98	15.60	15.14	14.56	13.84	13.06	12.74	13.06	12.87	13.00	13.06	13.72	13.91
Labor & management (1.3 hrs.)	6.14	6.14	6.14	6.38	6.38	6.38	6.19	6.19	6.19	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46	5.46
Vet medicine[3]	1.36	1.40	1.42	1.43	1.45	1.45	1.46	1.46	1.45	1.47	1.49	1.50	1.51	1.51	1.53
Interest on purchase (4 mo.)	.71	.68	.66	.84	.74	.90	1.05	1.25	1.39	1.43	1.47	1.49	1.47	1.48	1.86
Power, equip, fuel, shelter, depreciation[3]	3.30	3.40	3.44	3.47	3.51	3.53	3.55	3.54	3.53	3.58	3.61	3.65	3.66	3.68	3.72
Death loss (4% of purchase)	.81	.78	.75	.96	.85	1.03	1.20	1.43	1.59	1.72	1.76	1.79	1.76	1.86	2.35
Transportation (100 miles)	.46	.46	.46	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48	.48
Marketing expenses	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Miscellaneous & indirect costs[1]	.34	.35	.35	.36	.36	.36	.36	.36	.36	.37	.37	.37	.38	.38	.38
Total	79.81	86.86	83.26	93.13	87.46	91.64	93.03	96.12	98.21	101.24	101.91	103.01	102.49	109.03	120.00
	Dollars per cwt.	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*	*Dollars per cwt.*
Selling price/cwt. required to cover feed and feeder costs (220 lb.)	29.80	32.97	31.33	35.50	32.99	34.72	35.28	36.49	37.31	38.90	39.15	39.60	39.58	42.29	46.85
Selling price/cwt. required to cover all costs (220 lb.)	36.28	39.48	37.85	42.33	39.75	41.65	42.29	43.69	44.64	46.02	46.32	46.82	46.79	49.56	54.55
Feed cost per 100 lb. gain	25.14	29.49	27.87	29.99	28.58	28.13	26.39	24.73	23.52	23.63	23.41	23.60	23.88	25.71	24.59
Barrows and gilts 7 markets/cwt.	38.34	39.93	38.93	39.61	39.52	40.69	46.44	51.19	57.17	58.10	61.23				
Net margin/cwt.	+2.06	+.45	+1.08	-2.72	-.23	-.96	+4.15	+7.50	+12.53	+12.08	+14.91				
Prices:															
40 lb. feeder pig (So. Missouri)	20.31	19.44	18.75	24.10	21.13	25.75	30.10	35.75	39.75	43.05	44.00	44.65	44.10	46.75	58.81
Corn[4]/(bu.)	2.98	3.39	3.29	3.49	3.30	3.28	3.06	2.86	2.69	2.68	2.66	2.68	2.72	2.96	2.76
29% protein supplement[5]/cwt.	9.60	12.15	10.75	12.00	11.65	11.20	10.65	10.05	9.80	10.05	9.90	10.00	10.05	10.55	10.70
Labor and management[6]/hr.	4.72	4.72	4.72	4.91	4.91	4.91	4.76	4.76	4.76	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20
Interest rate (annual)	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.50
Transportation rate/cwt. 100 miles)[7]	.21	.21	.21	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22	.22
Marketing expenses[8]	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100)	573	590	599	603	610	613	617	615	612	621	627	633	636	639	645

[1] Although a majority of hog feeding operations in the Corn Belt are from farrow to finish, relative fattening expenses will be similar. [2] Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed rations and expense items do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level, and locality of operation. [3] Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes and wage rates. [4] Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [5] Average prices paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [6] Assumes an owner-operator receiving twice the farm labor rate. [7] Converted to cents/cwt. from cents/mile for a 44,000 pound haul. [8] Yardage plus commission fees at a midwest terminal market.

the hog industry, averaged around 14 to 1 during these months, holding well below levels generally associated with expansion.

The decisions to have sows farrow during September-November were largely made during the months of May through July. Hog prices increased dramatically during May with further increases during June and July, more than offsetting increases in grain prices. The hog-corn ratio averaged around 18 to 1 during the 3-month period and exceeded 19 to 1 during July, the highest level since August of 1973. While farrowing intentions for the fall quarter remain below the level of a year ago, intended reductions are less than had been previously indicated.

First quarter 1976 slaughter could be off 14 to 16 percent from a year earlier, based on the September 1 distribution of market hogs on farms by weight groups. Most of the hogs slaughtered during January-March will be those pigs in the September inventory weighing less than 60 pounds—largely the June-August pig crop. The 13 percent reduction in lightweight market hogs on hand September 1 reflects the similar percentage reduction in farrowings during the June-August period.



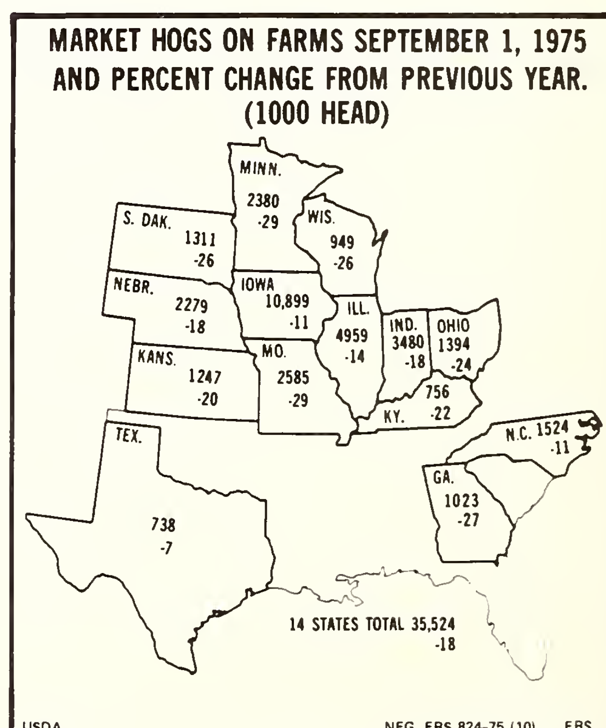
Slaughter weights likely will decline during the winter quarter from the seasonal high normally observed during October-December. However, with a continuation of favorable feeding margins, slaughter weights could still meet or exceed the level of a year earlier. In this case, first quarter 1976 pork production may be down around 15 percent from the first quarter of 1975. Barrow and gilt prices next spring might weaken some from the fall, as reductions in slaughter and production become smaller. But market hog prices will remain strong, and could still run over $55 per 100 pounds through early 1976.

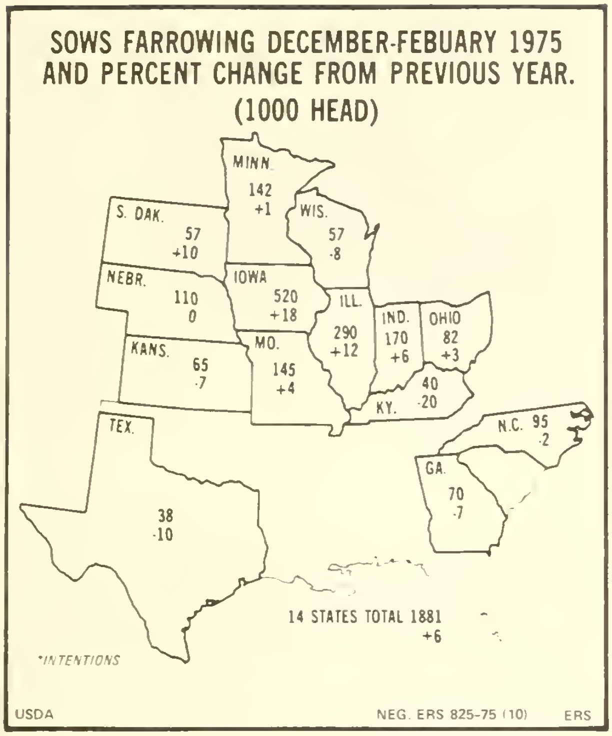
The September hogs and pigs report placed farrowing intentions for September-November down 7

September 1 inventory, farrowings and pig crops, 14 selected states

Item	1973	1974	1975	1976	1975/1974
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*Percent change*
INVENTORY ...	52,158	50,175	41,535		-17
Breeding:	7,547	6,825	6,011		-12
Market:	44,611	43,350	35,524		-18
Weight groups					
-60 lb.	17,865	16,597	14,397		-13
60-119 lb. ..	11,763	11,654	8,990		-23
120-179 lb. .	9,115	8,978	7,182		-20
180-219 lb. .	4,880	5,050	4,157		-18
220 lb. + ...	988	1,071	798		-25
FARROWINGS:					
Dec.-Feb.	2,266	2,258	1,778	1,881[1]	-21
Mar.-May	3,325	3,245	2,428	(+6)	-25
Dec.-May	5,591	5,503	4,206		-24
June-Aug.	2,521	2,424	2,088		-14
Sept.-Nov.	2,562	2,280	2,120[1]		-7
June-Nov.	5,083	4,704	4,208		-11
PIG CROPS:					
Dec.-Feb.	16,032	15,590	12,540		-20
Mar.-May	23,802	23,113	17,469		-24
Dec.-May	39,834	38,703	30,009		-22
June-Aug.	17,929	17,128	15,020		-12
Sept.-Nov.	18,274	16,127			
June-Nov.	36,203	33,255			
PIGS PER LITTER:					
Dec.-Feb.	7.08	6.90	7.05		+2
Mar.-May	7.16	7.12	7.19		+1
Dec.-May	7.12	7.03	7.13		+1
June-Aug.	7.11	7.07	7.19		+2
Sept.-Nov.	7.13	7.07			
June-Nov.	7.12	7.07			

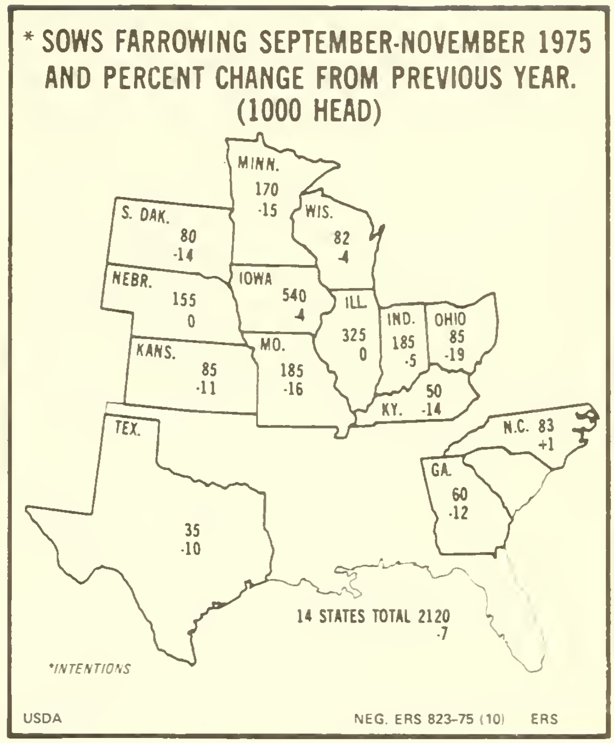
[1] Intentions





SOWS FARROWING DECEMBER-FEBUARY 1975 AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR. (1000 HEAD)

*INTENTIONS



* SOWS FARROWING SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1975 AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR. (1000 HEAD)

*INTENTIONS

percent from the fall quarter of 1974. These pigs will provide the pork supply in the spring of 1976. Last June producers had planned to reduce farrowings 12 percent during this period. The decision period for this pig crop, the months of May through July, saw improved feeding margins as higher hog prices outpaced gains in feed grains. Federally inspected sow slaughter during the months of July and August dropped 36 percent and 52 percent, respectively, from the year-earlier level. While comparison with 1974 slaughter can be misleading because of the liquidation of breeding stock during the last half of the year, withholdings for breeding purposes are indicated.

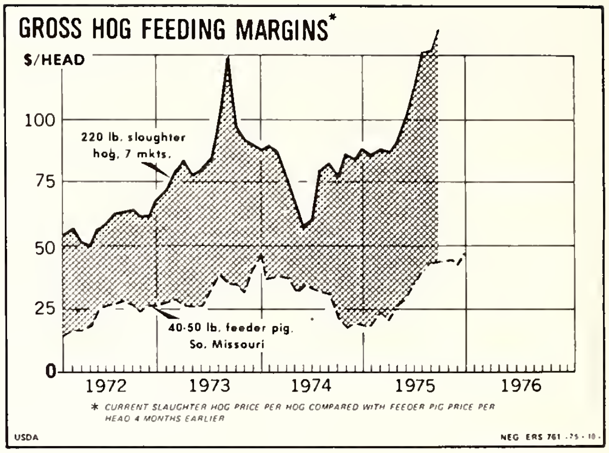
Breeding decisions for the December 1975-February 1976 period are almost behind us; thus potential slaughter levels through the third quarter of next year are nearly determined. Farrowing intentions reported on September 1 were 6 percent above actual farrowings for December-February a year earlier and, if realized, would represent the first quarterly increase in farrowings from a year earlier since December 1972-February 1973. The feed grain and hog price relationships which develop over the next 2-3 months will determine the number of sows to farrow in the March-May period and, thus, potential slaughter for the fourth quarter of 1976.

If hog producers carry out plans reported on September 1, more pork is in prospect for the second half of 1976, beginning with small increases around midyear then becoming larger toward yearend. During periods of major industry liquidation or expansion, production response often exceeds earlier expectations, as was the situation in the cutback last summer and fall. Given the current favorable outlook for hog producers for the next several months, expansion could also exceed early expectations. If grain prices were to soften in the next several weeks, continued strong hog prices could produce greater increases in the December-February pig crop than were planned on September 1. Further, larger increases seem likely for March-May farrowings. Producers have the flexibility to significantly increase (or decrease) production in a relatively short period of time. Increases in hog slaughter during the second half of next year could fully offset reductions in the first half. If this expansion materializes, market hog price declines through the last half of 1976 might largely offset the sharp price increases of the first half 1975.

Gross hog feeding margins[1]

Year	Hogs 7 markets	Feeder pigs So. Missouri	Margins
	$ per head	*$ per head*	*$ per head*
1972			
January	54.65	14.34	40.31
February	56.34	16.94	39.40
March	51.83	16.62	35.21
April	50.36	18.33	32.03
May	55.70	24.69	31.01
June	58.83	26.25	32.58
July	62.85	26.94	35.91
August	63.49	27.63	35.86
September	64.02	26.63	37.39
October	61.80	24.56	37.24
November	61.14	26.50	34.64
December	67.72	26.00	41.72
1973			
January	71.59	27.85	43.74
February	79.71	28.63	51.08
March	83.89	26.50	57.39
April	78.23	25.56	52.67
May	79.97	26.38	53.59
June	84.81	33.60	51.21
July	102.61	38.69	63.92
August	124.70	34.97	89.73
September	96.34	34.81	61.53
October	92.66	31.90	60.76
November	90.13	40.81	49.32
December	87.54	45.50	42.04
1974			
January	89.30	36.75	52.55
February	87.41	38.25	49.16
March	76.74	37.10	39.64
April	67.14	32.33	34.81
May	57.40	34.70	22.70
June	60.28	33.25	27.03
July	79.88	32.50	47.38
August	82.87	32.18	50.69
September	78.74	22.10	56.64
October	85.58	17.31	68.27
November	84.35	20.31	64.04
December	87.85	19.44	68.41
1975			
January	85.65	18.75	66.90
February	87.14	24.10	63.04
March	86.94	21.13	65.81
April	89.52	25.75	63.77
May	102.17	30.10	72.07
June	112.62	35.75	76.87
July	125.77	39.75	86.02
August	127.82	43.05	84.77
September	134.71	44.00	90.71

[1] Current 220 lb. Slaughter Hog compared with a 40-50 lb. Feeder Pig purchased 4 months earlier.



Feeder Pig Prices Remain Strong

Feeder pig prices continued to gain strength during the summer months as slaughter hog prices reached record levels. Prices received for 40 to 50 pound feeder pigs at southern Missouri markets topped $60 per head in late September, $30 above the January low and a threefold increase over the level of September 1974. Record slaughter hog prices and favorable short-term prospects largely account for the sharp runup in prices.

Although market hog prices are expected to remain strong for the next several months, feeder pig prices could fluctuate substantially due to short term movements in the grain market. If corn prices move substantially lower this fall and feeding costs decline, the demand for the relatively small supply of feeder pigs during October-December could be great enough to push prices well above current peaks. The 12 percent reduction in the June-August pig crop and the intentions to have 7 percent fewer sows farrow during September-November will probably insulate the feeder pig market from significant declines. If corn and slaughter hog prices were to remain at late September levels, some producers who purchase feeder pigs for finishing might be able to pay as much as $70 per head for a 40 pound feeder pig and maintain a breakeven position, allowing a return to labor and management. The following table provides a rough estimate of the range of feeder pig prices consistent with a breakeven position with varying levels of corn and market hog prices.

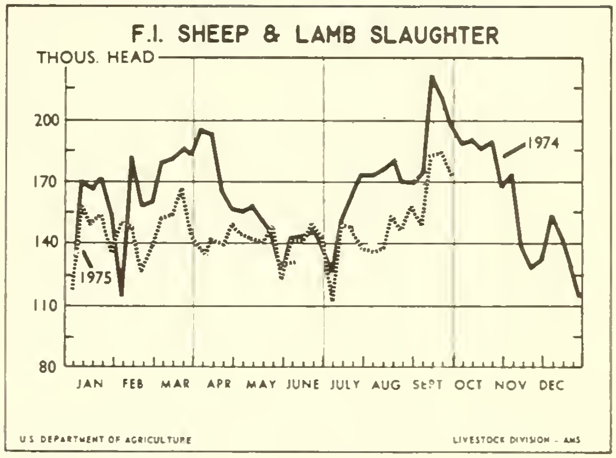
Maximum feeder pig prices with given various levels of corn and market hog prices[1]

Corn (farm price)	Market hogs, $ per 100 cwt.						
	35	40	45	50	55	60	65
$bu.	*Feeder pigs, $ per hd.*						
2.25	23	34	45	56	67	78	89
2.50	20	31	42	53	64	75	86
2.75	17	28	39	50	61	72	83
3.00	14	25	36	47	58	69	80
3.25	12	23	34	45	56	67	78
3.50	9	20	31	42	53	64	75
3.75	6	17	28	39	50	61	72
4.00	3	14	25	36	47	58	69

[1] Assuming protein and other cost at August 1975 levels. (See hog feeding table).

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter during July-September totaled just over 2 million head, down about 13-15 percent from a year ago but up 7-9 percent from the second quarter, indicating a rather normal seasonal pattern of marketings. Slaughter during the fall quarter may decline marginally with slaughter possibly running around 5 percent below the 1974 level. Total commercial slaughter for the year likely will total around 8 million head, off about 10 percent from last year. This corresponds with the 11 percent reduction in the inventory of sheep and lambs on farms January 1 this year.



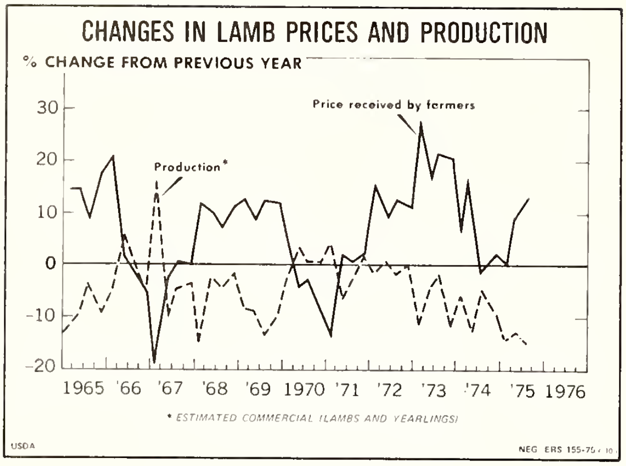
Lamb and Mutton Production Up Seasonally

Commercial production of lamb and mutton during July-September increased seasonally over the second quarter but remained well below the level of a year ago. Production for the third quarter totaled about 100 million pounds, 4-5 percent above April-June but around 15 percent below the 1974 summer quarter. As the marketing season progresses, a

Table 5—Lamb supplies and prices

	Commercial slaughter[1]			Average dressed weight	Commercial production	Per capita consumption	Prices			
	Lambs and yearlings	Sheep	Total				Retail	San Angelo Choice slaughter	San Angelo Choice feeder	Farm
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Lb.*	*Cents per lb.*	*Dollars per/cwt*	*Dollars per/cwt*	*Dollars per/cwt*
1971 I	2,586	140	2,726	54	145	0.8	106.5	25.41	25.60	24.17
II	2,365	265	2,630	51	133	.8	108.3	29.60	26.62	27.30
III	2,424	247	2,671	49	129	.8	111.8	27.63	25.13	26.80
IV	2,497	206	2,703	51	137	.7	112.2	26.00	26.11	25.33
Year	9,872	858	10.730	51	544	3.1	109.7	27.16	25.86	25.90
1972										
I	2,544	116	2,660	54	142	.8	114.6	29.29	29.44	27.93
II	2,330	170	2,500	52	130	.9	116.9	32.92	31.45	29.90
III	2,328	202	2,530	49	124	.9	121.2	31.42	29.71	30.23
IV	2,396	214	2,610	53	137	.7	122.6	29.18	30.36	28.17
Year	9,598	702	10.300	52	533	3.3	118.8	30.70	30.24	29.10
1973										
I	2,240	76	2,316	54	126	.7	130.6	38.65	38.70	35.70
II	2,164	205	2,369	54	127	.7	134.0	38.22	37.37	34.97
III	2,237	305	2,542	51	128	.7	139.7	38.36	35.90	36.77
IV	2,116	254	2,370	52	123	.6	132.7	37.55	36.69	33.90
Year	8,757	840	9,597	53	504	2.7	134.3	38.20	37.17	35.10
1974										
I	2,082	108	2,190	54	119	.6	137.6	40.21	37.29	38.17
II	1,972	140	2,112	52	109	.6	139.7	45.25	40.21	40.80
III	2,214	199	2,413	49	118	.6	152.3	38.85	31.42	36.30
IV	1,991	141	2,132	51	108	.5	153.3	37.36	34.81	34.70
Year	8,259	588	8,847	51	454	2.3	145.7	40.42	35.93	37.49
1975										
I	1,877	66	1,943	52	101	.5	156.0	41.35	35.60	38.30
II	1,772	152	1,924	50	96	.5	164.4	46.78	42.11	44.40
III	1,925	170	2,095	48	100	.4	175.0	43.17	40.08	41.23
IV										
Year										

[1] Classes estimated. [2] Total, including Farm Production.



shift in the slaughter mix is usually observed. During the July-September quarter, marketings of milk-fat lambs are at a maximum and are the dominant source of slaughter supplies. Average carcass weights generally reach a seasonal low during this period, thus accounting for the smaller percentage increase in production than in slaughter compared with the second quarter.

Marketings of milk-fat lambs normally decline during October and November with fed marketings increasing. Average carcass weights usually increase correspondingly. While the increase likely will be small, given the expected strength in the grain market, higher carcass weights are expected to offset any decline in slaughter numbers and fourth quarter commercial production should hold near the level reached during the summer months.

Lamb Prices May Slip

Slaughter lamb prices trailed lower during the third quarter reflecting the seasonal increase in slaughter. Prices for Choice slaughter lambs at San Angelo during July-September averaged over $43 per hundredweight, the highest summer average on record, but down about $3.60 from the second quarter. Choice slaughter lamb prices declined from May peaks of around $48 per 100 pounds to lows in August of near $41. Following other livestock markets, slaughter lamb prices strengthened during late September in a rather atypical seasonal pattern, topping $44 per 100 pounds on most markets.

Fourth quarter prices for Choice slaughter lambs may slip from late September levels and could average in the low $40's. Heavyweight fed lamb carcasses are often subject to quality discounts during the fourth quarter when milk-fat and fed lamb marketings coincide. These discounts are reflected in the price received for slaughter lambs. If feed grain prices remain up this fall, those discounts likely will be small.

Choice lamb prices per 100 pounds, San Angelo

Month	Slaughter lambs			Feeder lambs		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
	Dol.	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*	*Dol.*
Jan.	35.75	39.50	38.25	34.30	39.55	34.12
Feb.	36.50	40.75	39.31	37.06	38.12	35.31
Mar.	43.69	40.38	46.50	44.75	41.88	37.38
Apr.	39.50	42.25	46.65	40.75	41.56	43.65
May	36.70	47.15	47.62	36.05	42.00	43.00
June	38.46	46.25	46.06	35.31	37.08	39.69
July	37.31	37.94	45.25	34.50	31.25	40.25
Aug.	39.42	42.50	40.75	38.40	32.58	38.75
Sept.	---	36.12	43.50	34.81	30.75	41.25
Oct.	36.00	36.44		35.65	31.75	
Nov.	38.33	37.58		36.67	36.25	
Dec.	38.33	39.25		37.75	36.42	
Av.	38.20	40.51		37.17	36.52	

MEAT CONSUMPTION AND PRICES

Commercial red meat production through the first three-fourths of 1975 is down about 3 percent from the same period in 1974. Production began to fall below year-earlier levels in March, ranging from a 2 percent cut in April to a 12 percent reduction in May. Production in September ran about 5 percent below September 1974. So far this year, increases in beef and veal production have not been large enough to offset reduced pork and lamb production. January-September beef and veal production combined was about 840 million pounds (5 percent) greater than a year ago, while pork and lamb output fell about 1,740 million pounds (17 percent).

As meat production slipped, retail meat prices jumped higher. After declining between September 1974 and March 1975, retail prices began to move up in April. The 12 percent year-to-year reduction in red meat production in May boosted retail meat prices 5 percent from April to May. Prices (BLS Index of retail meat prices) then rose another 6 percent in June, 6 percent in July, and then slowed to 1 percent in August as meat production declined seasonally, and remained well below levels of the year before.

Summer Production Down

Third quarter red meat production may total around 8.8 billion pounds, 5 percent smaller than last year and about the same as the second quarter. Seasonal increases in beef and veal production from spring to summer have about offset reduced pork production. July-September beef production totaled about 5.9-6.0 billion pounds, up 3 to 4 percent from last year, but pork production at around 2½ billion pounds was down around 23 percent, the smallest in 10 years. Although cattle slaughter during the third quarter was at a record high, sharp

reductions in average slaughter weights held down increases in beef production. Per capita red meat consumption during July-September may total about 43-45 pounds per person, about the same as the second quarter but down 1-3 pounds from last year.

The low level of meat supply quickly raised meat prices to record levels. The BLS index of retail meat prices during July-September may average about 20 percent above a year earlier. Beef and pork prices both have risen to new highs, but most of the year-to-year price rise has been in pork. Beef prices this summer averaged almost 10 percent above last year but pork prices were almost 40 percent higher.

Hamburger Prices Lower

The composite average price per pound of Choice grade beef rose from $1.29 in February to a record $1.61 in July before turning slightly lower in August and September. In mid-September the average for beef was at $1.55 per pound, over 10 cents above September 1974. Summer quarter beef consumption may total about 30 pounds per person, about 2 pounds up from the second quarter and slightly above a year ago. Although beef consumption continues relatively high, the supply of grain-fed beef makes up only about half of the consumer supply. While cow slaughter in July-September was up around 60 percent from a year earlier, fed cattle slaughter was down around 8-10 percent. In the wholesale beef trade this marked shift was reflected this summer in a record-wide price spread of around $40 per 100 pounds between Choice steer beef carcasses and cow beef. Back in 1973, when the cow herd was still expanding rapidly, cow slaughter was low and fed beef supplies were large. At that time cow beef and Choice steer beef once sold for the same price. In the retail trade, this changing composition of beef has resulted in rather sizable increases in price for higher grade beef cuts while hamburger prices remain relatively low. For example, between March

Table 6—Average retail price of meat per pound, United States, by months, 1968 to date[1]

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
						Beef, Choice grade							
1968	84.3	85.1	85.6	85.6	85.8	85.8	87.1	87.0	88.4	87.7	88.1	88.5	86.6
1969	89.5	89.6	90.9	93.3	97.8	101.9	102.4	101.1	99.1	95.2	96.5	96.9	96.2
1970	97.5	97.3	99.4	99.9	99.4	98.5	100.7	100.4	98.7	97.9	97.6	96.5	98.6
1971	97.2	101.3	102.2	104.0	104.8	105.7	104.7	105.7	105.9	105.1	106.3	108.5	104.3
1972	111.5	115.8	115.8	112.0	111.4	113.5	117.3	115.8	112.9	112.8	112.3	114.6	113.8
1973	122.1	130.3	135.3	136.0	136.0	135.5	136.3	144.2	144.9	136.0	134.9	134.4	135.5
1974	143.0	150.0	142.2	136.4	135.0	132.2	137.9	143.4	141.6	136.8	134.4	132.2	138.8
1975	132.8	129.0	127.0	133.9	147.8	157.8	161.0	155.5					
						Veal, retail cuts							
1968	99.8	99.2	100.0	102.0	100.0	102.5	101.7	101.4	101.9	101.1	101.9	100.9	101.0
1969	102.5	103.7	104.6	107.5	108.6	112.5	114.0	115.0	115.1	115.2	114.6	116.3	110.8
1970	117.2	119.3	120.8	123.3	123.9	124.9	125.7	126.6	127.0	127.4	127.6	127.9	124.3
1971	128.9	129.4	130.6	132.9	133.7	134.8	138.5	139.3	139.6	140.3	140.6	140.9	135.8
1972	142.8	148.6	149.7	151.0	151.7	154.2	156.4	157.3	157.6	158.4	159.4	159.9	153.9
1973	162.2	169.1	176.9	180.5	181.1	181.3	183.2	188.7	188.5	190.6	186.2	191.6	181.7
1974	194.5	198.4	199.1	194.8	193.3	193.7	192.4	194.8	196.1	192.4	189.1	190.6	194.1
1975	187.0	184.1	180.8	181.9	185.3	186.0	190.1	185.8					
						Pork							
1968	65.4	66.7	67.1	66.3	66.7	67.8	69.4	69.0	68.8	67.8	67.1	67.0	67.4
1969	67.9	68.6	69.0	69.1	71.6	75.0	76.9	78.3	78.9	78.7	78.1	79.7	74.3
1970	82.1	81.8	81.4	79.9	80.0	80.0	80.6	79.7	76.7	74.6	70.8	68.4	78.0
1971	68.4	69.4	69.9	68.7	68.2	69.6	71.4	71.6	71.0	71.3	71.4	72.9	70.3
1972	76.3	81.3	79.4	78.2	79.4	82.0	85.6	86.0	86.6	87.5	87.2	88.5	83.2
1973	94.1	97.1	103.0	102.7	102.4	104.1	107.5	131.5	126.3	117.1	115.4	115.8	109.8
1974	116.7	117.2	111.8	104.7	99.4	93.7	103.7	108.7	109.9	109.0	111.4	112.7	108.2
1975	114.9	114.8	113.6	115.7	123.0	130.5	143.7	150.2					
						Lamb, Choice grade							
1968	89.8	90.4	92.0	92.5	93.3	93.7	94.5	93.6	93.1	94.5	94.2	93.5	92.9
1969	94.5	95.9	96.4	97.1	100.1	101.8	104.4	102.9	103.4	103.9	103.7	104.8	100.7
1970	104.8	104.8	104.7	105.6	103.9	105.7	106.0	106.3	106.3	105.9	105.9	106.4	105.5
1971	105.9	106.5	107.0	107.4	108.0	109.6	111.4	111.5	112.6	110.9	112.7	113.0	109.7
1972	113.0	115.3	115.5	116.0	115.7	119.0	121.2	121.5	121.0	121.5	122.5	123.7	118.8
1973	125.6	130.2	136.1	135.5	134.2	132.2	133.4	140.4	145.4	135.2	131.3	131.7	134.3
1974	132.6	138.2	141.9	141.3	141.8	144.4	151.4	151.5	154.1	151.8	152.2	155.9	145.7
1975	156.0	157.2	154.7	158.6	164.7	169.9	175.8	174.5					

[1] Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts. Compiled by Economic Research Service from BLS data.

and August this year, the price of sirloin steaks rose almost a third while hamburger prices rose only 15 percent. Prices of hamburger and beef liver in July and August were still well below late 1973 levels while prices of steaks rose to record highs in July and August. The large supply of relatively low priced hamburger currently on the market may be one reason for little apparent consumer resistance to recent sharp increases in overall beef prices, as was the situation in 1973.

Pork Prices Record High

Pork consumption during July-September may total only about 12½ pounds per person, the smallest in recent history and about 3½ pounds below a year ago. Cold storage stocks declined seasonally from May through September 1. Although domestic production is at the lowest level in several years, September 1 cold storage stocks at 184 million pounds were down 29 percent from last year, but still larger than 2 years ago.

The average composite price per pound of pork exceeded the previous peak in mid-1973 during July this year. Prices rose from about $1.14 per pound in March to $1.53 in early September—a gain of over 30 percent in just 6 months. By the middle of September, the average composite retail price per pound of pork at $1.54 per pound exceeded the average composite retail price per pound of Choice beef for the first time in history. According to the August BLS survey, the price of bacon in August was at a record $1.92 per pound, up 45 percent from a year earlier. Pork chops were 28 percent higher than a year earlier and pork sausage was up 40 percent. In August, however, picnics and whole hams were still priced slightly below late

Table 7—Per capita meat consumption by quarters[1]

Year	Carcass weight					Retail weight				
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Beef										
1969	27.2	26.7	28.6	28.3	110.8	20.2	19.7	21.2	20.9	82.0
1970	28.3	27.9	29.0	28.5	113.7	20.9	20.6	21.5	21.1	84.1
1971	27.7	28.1	29.3	27.9	113.0	20.5	20.8	21.7	20.6	83.6
1972	28.2	28.9	29.4	29.6	116.1	20.9	21.4	21.7	21.9	85.9
1973	28.0	26.2	26.8	28.6	109.6	20.7	19.4	19.8	21.2	81.1
1974	28.3	28.8	29.4	30.3	116.8	20.9	21.3	21.8	22.4	86.4
1975[2]	30.2	28.4	30.2	30.8	119.6	22.4	21.0	22.3	22.8	88.5
Veal										
1969	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	3.3	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	2.7
1970	.8	.7	.7	.7	2.9	.6	.6	.6	.6	2.4
1971	.7	.6	.7	.7	2.7	.6	.5	.5	.6	2.2
1972	.6	.5	.5	.6	2.2	.5	.4	.4	.5	1.8
1973	.5	.4	.4	.5	1.8	.5	.3	.3	.4	1.5
1974	.5	.4	.6	.8	2.3	.4	.3	.5	.7	1.9
1975[2]	.9	.9	1.1	1.2	4.1	.7	.7	1.0	1.0	3.4
Pork										
1969	17.0	16.0	15.5	16.5	65.0	15.8	14.9	14.4	15.3	60.4
1970	15.4	15.6	16.3	19.1	66.4	14.3	14.5	15.2	17.8	61.8
1971	18.3	17.8	18.0	18.9	73.0	17.0	16.6	16.7	17.6	67.9
1972	17.7	16.6	15.8	17.3	67.4	16.5	15.4	14.7	16.1	62.7
1973	16.0	15.4	14.0	16.2	61.6	14.9	14.3	13.0	15.1	57.3
1974	16.7	17.2	16.1	16.6	66.6	15.5	16.0	15.0	15.4	61.9
1975[2]	15.1	14.0	12.7	13.0	54.8	14.1	13.0	11.8	12.1	51.0
Lamb & Mutton										
1969	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	3.4	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	3.0
1970	.9	.9	.8	.7	3.3	.8	.8	.7	.6	2.9
1971	.8	.8	.8	.7	3.1	.7	.7	.7	.7	2.8
1972	.8	.9	.9	.7	3.3	.7	.8	.8	.6	2.9
1973	.7	.7	.7	.6	2.7	.7	.6	.6	.5	2.4
1974	.6	.6	.6	.5	2.3	.5	.5	.5	.5	2.0
1975[2]	.5	.5	.5	.5	2.0	.5	.4	.4	.5	1.8
Red Meat										
1969	46.0	44.3	45.8	46.4	182.5	37.5	36.0	37.0	37.6	148.1
1970	45.4	45.1	46.8	49.0	186.3	36.6	36.5	38.0	40.1	151.2
1971	47.5	47.3	48.8	48.2	191.8	38.8	38.6	39.6	39.5	156.5
1972	47.3	46.9	46.6	48.2	189.0	38.6	38.0	37.6	39.1	153.3
1973	45.2	42.7	41.9	45.9	175.7	36.8	34.6	33.7	37.2	142.3
1974	45.6	47.0	46.7	47.9	187.3	37.3	38.1	37.8	39.0	152.2
1975[2]	46.7	43.8	44.5	45.5	180.5	37.7	35.1	35.5	36.4	144.7

[1] Total consumption including farm, 50 States. [2] Second quarter preliminary. Third quarter estimated.

1973 levels, and canned ham prices were only slightly higher.

Veal Production Up

July-September veal production may total 225-230 million pounds, up 85 to 90 percent from last summer and the largest quarterly production since 1966. The current large increase in calf slaughter is characteristic of herd liquidation, recently brought about by high feeding costs. Average dressed weights of slaughter calves are up this year, reflecting an increase in beef calf slaughter. Per capita veal consumption during July-September may total over 1 pound per person compared with 0.6 pound a year earlier. Veal prices have remained below 1974 levels throughout 1975. The BLS price per pound of veal cutlets in August was $3.25 per pound, about 20 cents under a year earlier and near 1973 levels.

Lamb Consumption Down

Retail lamb prices may be peaking in July and August, with the ERS retail price of Choice grade cuts averaging about $1.75 per pound—the highest monthly level on record and 16 percent above July and August 1974. Third quarter prices likely will average around $1.75 per pound, up from the previous record level of $1.64 observed during April-June. A downtrend in beef prices may produce some decline in retail lamb prices during the fourth quarter.

Per capita consumption of lamb during the third quarter will be about ½ pound per person, about the same as the second quarter and about a tenth of a pound below a year earlier. Consumption for the year is expected to total about 2 pounds per person, down .3 pound from last year and the smallest on record.

Meat Production to Rise Seasonally

October-December red meat production likely will fall 4-6 percent short of a year ago but could be seasonally larger than the third quarter. If nonfed cattle move to market in the volume expected and seasonal increases in hog slaughter raise pork production, commercial red meat production in the last 3 months of this year might be back up to, or exceed, the first quarter level of 9.1 billion pounds. Beef production could be up 3 to 5 percent from the third quarter and pork output could rise 7-9 percent.

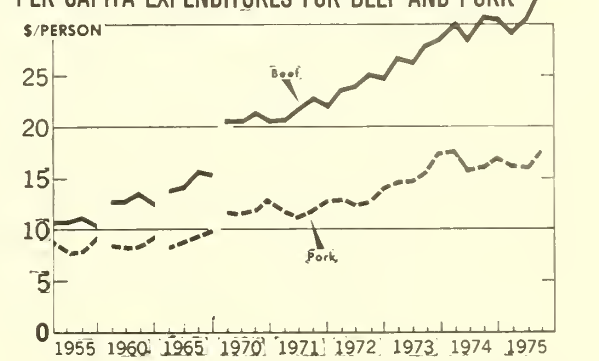
Retail meat prices likely will remain high through yearend. While up from summer, meat consumption during October-December likely will remain smaller than last year. Any possible weakness in retail beef prices could be offset by stronger pork prices. Even if retail meat prices remain at summer levels through yearend, October-December prices would average almost 20 percent above a year earlier.

If slaughter rates and prices meet expectations for the remainder of 1975, per capita red meat consumption this year will be down around 8 to 10 pounds, from last year's 188 pounds. By class, per capita consumption could total; beef 118-121, veal 4, lamb 2, and pork 53-55. The BLS index of retail meat prices this year likely will be record high, averaging 7 to 9 percent above 1974. Despite sharp increases during the year, beef and veal prices this year may average less than 5 percent higher than 1974, while pork prices average 20 to 25 percent higher.

Meat Expenditures Rise

Estimates of third quarter meat expenditures indicate demand for meat products continues unusually strong. Reduced meat consumption levels have been more than offset by rising prices, boosting third quarter expenditures to a record $54 per person. This represents almost a $5 rise from the previous high in the first quarter of 1974, and a rise of more than $5 from the second quarter. Expenditures for beef reached a record $34 and pork expenditures were up, but still short of the first quarter 1974 peak.

PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES FOR BEEF AND PORK*



*ESTIMATED FROM RETAIL WEIGHT OF CONSUMPTION TIMES AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. ERS 642-75 (10) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Some of the jump in expenditures from the second to the third quarter could be a delayed reaction to the sharp increase in consumer incomes this spring because of the income tax rebate. Although third quarter disposable income may be up 7-8 percent from last year, it may be no larger than April-June. If the rise in expenditures was a delayed response, this could imply a slackening rate of expenditures later this year. Even so, strong consumer demand and reduced meat supplies appear to be enough to hold retail meat prices and livestock prices at relatively high levels for the rest of this year and well into 1976.

Table 8—Expenditures per person and percent of income spent for red meat[1]

Year and quarter	Disposable income	Spent for beef[2]	Percentage	Spent for pork	Percentage	Spent for veal	Percentage	Spent for lamb	Percentage	Spent for all meat	Percentage
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Percent*	*Dollars*	*Percent*	*Dollars*	*Percent*	*Dollars*	*Percent*	*Dollars*	*Percent*
1955	1,666	42.75	2.57	33.27	2.00	4.99	0.30	2.73	0.16	83.76	5.02
1960	1,937	51.57	2.66	33.76	1.74	4.10	.21	3.11	.16	92.54	4.78
1965	2,436	58.95	2.42	35.93	1.47	3.58	.15	2.61	.11	101.07	4.15
1970	3,376	82.92	2.46	48.20	1.43	2.98	.09	3.06	.09	137.16	4.06
1971											
I	883	20.54	2.33	11.76	1.33	.78	.09	.75	.08	33.83	3.83
II	900	21.80	2.42	11.42	1.27	.67	.07	.76	.08	34.65	3.85
III	906	22.87	2.52	11.91	1.31	.70	.08	.78	.09	36.26	4.00
IV	916	21.96	2.40	12.65	1.38	.84	.09	.79	.09	36.24	3.96
Year	3,605	87.11	2.42	47.74	1.32	2.98	.08	3.07	.09	140.90	3.91
1972											
I	930	23.91	2.57	13.04	1.39	.74	.08	.80	.09	38.49	4.14
II	947	24.03	2.54	12.31	1.30	.61	.06	.94	.10	37.89	4.00
III	966	25.02	2.59	12.66	1.31	.63	.07	.97	.10	39.28	4.07
IV	1,000	24.79	2.48	14.12	1.41	.80	.08	.74	.07	40.45	4.04
Year	3,843	97.75	2.54	52.17	1.36	2.77	.07	3.45	.09	156.14	4.06
1973											
I	1,036	26.74	2.58	14.62	1.41	.85	.08	.91	.09	43.12	4.16
II	1,061	26.35	2.48	14.74	1.39	.54	.05	.80	.08	42.43	4.00
III	1,085	28.08	2.59	15.83	1.46	.56	.05	.84	.08	45.31	4.18
IV	1,113	28.64	2.57	17.53	1.58	.76	.07	.66	.06	47.59	4.28
Year	4,295	109.89	2.56	62.90	1.46	2.73	.06	3.22	.08	178.74	4.16
1974											
I	1,124	30.33	2.70	17.86	1.59	.79	.07	.69	.06	49.67	4.42
II	1,142	28.65	2.51	15.89	1.39	.58	.05	.70	.06	45.82	4.01
III	1,171	30.74	2.63	16.11	1.38	.97	.08	.76	.06	48.58	4.15
IV	1,186	30.13	2.54	17.09	1.44	1.33	.11	.77	.06	49.32	4.16
Year	4,623	119.92	2.59	66.98	1.45	3.69	.08	2.91	.06	193.50	4.19
1975											
I	1,192	29.03	2.44	16.02	1.34	1.29	.11	.78	.07	47.12	3.96
II	1,264	30.76	2.43	16.00	1.27	1.29	.10	.66	.05	48.71	3.85
III	1,262	35.02	2.77	17.70	1.40	1.87	.15	.70	.06	55.29	4.38
IV											
Year											

[1] Estimated from retail weight of consumption times average retail price. Conversion factors of 0.74 for beef, 0.93 for pork, 0.83 for veal, and 0.89 for lamb and mutton were used to adjust carcass weight consumption to retail weight consumption.

[2] Based on the average retail price of Choice grade beef and does not attempt to account for prices of other grades or the value of away-from-home consumption.

Farm-Retail Spreads Widen

The retail price for Choice beef reached a record high of $1.61 per pound in July, then slipped to $1.56 in August following live cattle prices. Fed cattle prices, however, declined faster than retail price and the farm-retail spread increased 3½ cents per pound to a record 59 cents. The farm-retail spread in early September narrowed again to about 53 cents as cattle prices strengthened. With prospects for some declines in Choice steer prices this fall as marketings increase, farm-retail spreads will likely widen again.

Marketing spreads for pork also reached record highs in August of 47½ cents per pound. before moving slightly lower in early September. Unlike beef, pork spreads have widened while hog prices moved higher. With margins for pork already at record levels, hog prices could move higher with little further increase in retail pork prices.

Table 9—Beef and Pork Prices and Price Spreads

Date	Retail price per pound[1]	Carcass value[2]	Gross farm value[3]	Byproduct allowance[4]	Net farm value[5]	Farm-retail spread			Farmers' share
						Total	Carcass-retail	Farm-carcass	
	Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Percent*
					Beef, Choice grade				
1970	98.6	68.3	66.2	4.7	61.5	37.1	30.3	6.8	62
1971	104.3	75.7	72.3	4.5	67.8	36.5	28.6	7.9	65
1972	113.8	80.1	79.8	7.4	72.4	41.4	33.7	7.7	64
1973	135.5	98.3	100.0	10.1	89.9	45.6	37.2	8.4	66
1974	138.8	97.4	93.8	7.7	86.1	52.7	41.4	11.3	62
1972									
I	114.4	81.4	79.3	5.7	73.6	40.8	33.0	7.8	64
II	112.3	81.3	80.4	6.9	73.5	38.8	31.0	7.8	65
III	115.3	79.9	80.5	7.9	72.6	42.7	35.4	7.3	63
IV	113.2	77.8	78.9	8.9	70.0	43.2	35.4	7.8	62
1973									
I	129.2	95.2	96.6	9.4	87.2	42.0	34.0	8.0	67
II	135.8	100.2	102.7	10.0	92.7	43.1	35.6	7.5	68
III	141.8	105.6	110.4	11.6	98.8	43.0	36.2	6.8	70
IV	135.1	92.1	90.2	9.5	80.7	54.4	43.0	11.4	60
1974									
I	145.1	103.9	101.5	9.4	92.1	53.0	41.2	11.8	63
II	134.5	93.6	89.0	7.3	81.7	52.8	40.9	11.9	61
III	141.0	102.1	99.1	7.8	91.3	49.7	38.9	10.8	65
IV	134.5	90.2	85.4	6.1	79.3	55.2	44.3	10.9	59
1975									
Jan.	132.8	88.8	81.7	5.1	76.6	56.2	44.0	12.2	58
Feb.	129.0	84.7	78.1	4.9	73.2	55.8	44.3	11.5	57
Mar.	127.0	86.3	81.1	5.4	75.7	51.3	40.7	10.6	60
Apr.	133.9	101.2	96.6	6.7	89.9	44.0	32.7	11.3	67
May	147.8	115.9	111.0	7.1	103.9	43.9	31.9	12.0	70
June	157.8	123.2	117.6	7.4	110.2	47.6	34.6	13.0	70
July	161.0	119.7	113.6	7.8	105.8	55.2	41.3	13.9	65
Aug.	155.5	112.1	104.8	8.0	96.8	58.7	43.4	15.3	62
Sept.									
Oct.									
Nov.									
Dec.									
					Pork				
1970	78.0	58.8	42.8	3.4	39.4	38.6	19.2	19.4	51
1971	70.3	52.1	35.0	2.7	32.3	38.0	18.2	19.8	46
1972	83.2	65.3	51.2	3.5	47.7	35.5	17.9	17.6	57
1973	109.8	87.3	78.2	6.7	71.5	38.3	22.5	15.8	65
1974	108.2	77.4	68.0	7.2	60.8	47.4	30.8	16.6	56
1972									
I	79.0	61.4	47.0	3.3	43.7	35.3	17.6	17.7	55
II	79.9	61.1	47.5	3.3	44.2	35.7	18.8	16.9	55
III	86.1	67.2	55.2	3.8	51.4	34.7	18.9	15.8	60
IV	87.7	71.6	55.3	3.7	51.6	36.1	16.1	20.0	59
1973									
I	98.1	80.1	68.4	4.9	63.5	34.6	18.0	16.6	65
II	103.1	79.4	70.8	6.0	64.8	38.3	23.7	14.6	63
III	121.8	101.7	94.8	8.7	86.1	35.7	20.1	15.6	71
IV	116.1	87.9	78.9	7.4	71.5	44.6	28.2	16.4	62
1974									
I	115.2	82.3	73.8	7.7	66.1	49.1	32.9	16.2	57
II	99.3	66.4	53.2	5.3	47.9	51.4	32.9	18.5	48
III	107.4	77.6	70.1	7.3	62.8	44.6	29.8	14.8	58
IV	111.0	83.5	74.8	8.3	66.5	44.5	27.5	17.0	60
1975									
Jan.	114.9	84.2	74.8	7.7	67.1	47.8	30.7	17.1	58
Feb.	114.8	86.0	76.1	7.2	68.9	45.9	28.8	17.1	60
Mar.	113.6	86.8	75.9	7.1	68.8	44.8	26.8	18.0	61
Apr.	115.7	88.3	78.2	7.2	71.0	44.7	27.4	17.3	61
May	123.0	97.3	89.6	7.1	82.5	40.5	25.7	14.8	67
June	130.5	104.6	98.9	7.8	91.1	39.4	25.9	13.5	70
July	143.7	113.9	110.7	9.7	101.0	42.7	29.8	12.9	70
Aug.	150.2	118.2	112.5	9.8	92.7	47.5	32.0	15.5	68
Sept.									
Oct.									
Nov.									
Dec.									

[1] Estimated weighted average price of retail cuts. [2] For quantity equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts: Beef: 1.41 lb. of carcass beef; pork, 1.07 lb. of wholesale cuts. [3] Payment to farmer for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 lb. of retail cuts: Beef, 2.28 lb.; pork, 1.97 lb. [4] Portion of gross farm value attributed to edible and inedible byproducts. [5] Gross farm value minus byproduct allowance.

Table 10—Average retail price of specified meat cuts, per pound, by months, 1972 to date

Year and item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*
Beef:												
Porterhouse steak												
1972	176.3	180.8	181.3	177.8	175.3	180.1	187.1	187.3	184.9	180.2	182.0	179.7
1973	187.7	197.1	201.4	204.4	204.1	206.4	207.7	216.7	216.3	207.6	202.4	200.2
1974	201.3	214.7	211.5	206.0	204.1	206.6	205.8	220.2	226.6	216.4	212.0	207.8
1975	204.6	203.7	199.1	203.9	224.2	249.1	269.6	264.7				
Round steak												
1972	143.9	151.0	151.3	147.4	143.7	145.9	151.0	150.7	147.1	145.9	147.7	146.6
1973	155.9	167.8	174.6	174.8	173.8	173.9	176.3	187.7	188.5	175.8	174.7	171.4
1974	176.7	193.4	187.3	178.8	175.6	174.9	174.0	182.9	185.9	178.7	177.8	171.0
1975	172.9	171.5	167.9	171.0	186.7	198.9	207.7	202.2				
Rib roast												
1972	126.8	130.5	131.4	129.6	128.1	128.2	132.2	132.2	130.2	128.8	127.8	128.4
1973	137.2	142.3	148.6	150.9	152.4	153.4	154.4	160.1	161.5	157.8	154.5	153.8
1974	154.8	163.4	159.8	154.7	153.3	152.0	152.1	160.1	168.6	164.5	159.7	158.6
1975	160.7	157.3	154.9	155.9	167.8	184.0	206.2	200.3				
Rump roast												
1972	141.0	148.1	149.1	146.0	142.1	145.3	149.3	150.1	147.0	145.7	146.3	145.8
1973	153.7	164.4	169.5	169.8	169.7	170.2	171.6	181.7	182.3	172.1	170.8	167.3
1974	171.8	186.9	182.0	174.8	172.2	171.6	170.5	177.2	180.8	174.3	174.5	169.9
1975	169.3	169.6	167.1	169.6	182.4	191.5	199.8	196.6				
Chuck roast												
1972	79.1	84.2	85.1	83.0	80.7	79.8	83.5	84.6	82.2	81.2	81.1	81.1
1973	85.3	96.1	100.6	103.3	103.6	103.3	103.9	114.2	115.0	106.3	101.8	100.5
1974	101.0	114.7	113.0	102.7	97.4	95.0	95.4	102.2	105.0	101.2	99.5	98.2
1975	91.5	92.1	90.6	90.9	100.7	107.6	116.8	112.5				
Hamburger												
1972	70.6	73.2	74.1	73.8	73.5	74.1	75.1	76.4	75.3	75.7	75.4	75.2
1973	78.2	83.9	91.3	94.2	94.6	95.3	94.8	103.8	106.2	104.2	101.5	100.4
1974	102.6	109.5	108.4	101.2	97.1	95.2	90.5	94.8	96.4	93.0	89.7	87.5
1975	85.4	82.8	80.5	80.5	86.7	90.6	93.8	92.7				
Veal Cutlet												
1972	250.5	260.7	262.7	265.0	266.3	270.7	274.5	276.1	276.6	278.0	279.8	280.8
1973	284.6	295.7	308.5	314.0	314.1	313.5	315.9	324.6	323.4	326.2	327.4	326.0
1974	341.3	348.4	350.2	343.1	340.9	342.0	340.2	344.8	347.5	341.6	336.2	339.2
1975	328.1	323.0	317.2	319.2	325.1	326.4	333.5	325.9				
Pork:												
Chops												
1972	112.3	125.1	119.9	116.8	115.6	120.7	131.6	128.9	132.5	131.3	130.9	129.3
1973	139.5	147.7	154.2	145.0	147.0	150.0	152.1	196.5	169.8	157.9	157.6	153.4
1974	162.7	164.0	158.5	149.7	143.7	139.8	153.9	158.9	164.5	161.9	161.2	159.0
1975	160.7	161.4	161.1	161.4	167.2	183.3	204.1	203.9				
Roast, loin												
1972	79.5	86.9	85.5	82.8	82.1	85.1	93.1	92.1	93.1	93.2	93.3	92.0
1973	99.3	105.5	111.9	109.5	108.7	110.1	111.7	151.5	131.3	120.7	119.7	116.9
1974	122.9	123.9	121.1	111.7	107.5	102.9	113.3	117.6	121.6	119.8	119.1	117.2
1975	121.1	120.4	120.0	119.8	125.0	138.6	156.1	155.9				
Bacon, sliced												
1972	83.2	93.9	92.7	92.5	91.2	93.1	95.7	99.4	99.8	106.0	103.7	103.5
1973	107.3	114.7	118.1	121.6	119.5	121.2	123.1	161.0	166.4	152.8	142.9	141.4
1974	139.1	143.4	137.1	124.8	118.1	109.7	108.9	132.6	140.6	141.6	143.8	144.2
1975	147.1	147.8	149.2	147.9	157.7	165.5	177.9	192.0				
Ham, whole												
1972	74.9	76.6	77.8	76.7	75.2	76.3	77.5	78.0	78.6	79.9	81.9	85.5
1973	92.0	91.0	94.8	99.7	98.4	97.8	98.2	121.7	126.0	115.3	117.0	122.2
1974	121.3	115.9	114.2	108.9	97.3	92.6	89.9	99.0	101.1	102.7	108.8	113.8
1975	114.7	109.9	110.5	109.9	109.0	114.5	120.0	125.6				
Lamb Chops												
1972	192.1	195.5	196.0	195.3	195.0	199.7	203.0	203.6	202.6	203.9	204.0	203.1
1973	205.3	218.1	225.5	227.5	226.6	224.5	228.8	241.4	240.8	227.1	223.4	230.1
1974	200.2	216.3	219.7	213.2	213.0	222.9	225.7	226.1	226.2	223.2	224.5	227.3
1975	252.1	254.8	255.3	256.2	264.4	275.3	204.1	205.9				

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 11—Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-75

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Mil. lb.	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
1959-63 average	47.3	49.6	57.5	54.3	48.5	58.6	67.1	84.1	76.1	61.6	56.1	61.4	722.2
1964	87.2	44.9	68.9	61.4	51.1	98.1	43.7	79.5	49.6	46.4	55.7	53.4	739.9
1965	28.2	34.5	68.7	32.4	52.3	41.9	58.5	59.9	62.2	64.4	57.2	53.7	613.9
1966	51.4	60.3	49.4	63.3	52.0	100.2	61.4	87.1	91.5	79.7	61.1	66.0	823.4
1967	77.4	58.5	61.9	58.8	51.5	69.6	88.7	92.2	89.8	91.8	82.3	72.4	894.9
1968	80.7	72.6	64.1	78.4	56.1	105.1	86.4	108.6	115.5	102.1	95.8	35.6	1,001.0
1969[1]	41.9	50.4	136.1	90.0	80.5	85.7	107.1	141.8	121.4	108.4	51.4	69.4	1,084.1
1970[1]	124.5	100.7	112.0	88.7	62.1	93.4	110.0	113.0	107.6	89.3	79.3	89.8	1,170.4
1971[1]	83.4	65.1	88.3	86.2	76.8	101.0	94.4	104.9	158.6	80.4	63.2	130.3	1,132.6
1972[1]	86.9	80.8	75.4	105.4	107.9	106.4	106.8	164.6	163.8	145.1	119.0	93.4	1,355.5
1973[1]	106.2	98.4	88.3	97.9	113.1	91.5	106.0	153.7	110.3	149.9	130.0	110.3	1,355.6
1974[1]	118.0	82.3	104.9	91.4	80.6	78.6	59.4	101.4	91.8	72.3	93.2	105.2	1,079.1
1975	135.5	97.5	106.0	86.1	75.8	100.9	104.3	112.8					

[1] Rejections for calendar year 1969 equaled 13.5 million pounds, 17.4 million pounds for 1970, 21.0 million pounds for 1971, 17.8 million pounds for 1972, 18.4 million pounds for 1973, and 9.6 for 1974.

Table 12—U.S. meat imports and exports and percentage comparisons (carcass weight), 1974 and 1975

Months	Beef and veal			Lamb and mutton[1]			Pork			Total meat		
	1974	1975	Change	1974	1975	Change	1974	1975	Change	1974	1975	Change
	Mil. lb.	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Pct.*
IMPORTS												
January	178	192	+8	1	1	+24	43	44	+2	222	237	+6
February	127	139	+9	3	2	-45	47	33	-29	177	174	-2
March	164	151	-8	4	2	-34	52	40	-23	220	193	-12
April	137	124	-10	6	3	-49	43	37	-12	186	164	-16
May	125	110	-12	2	1	-20	39	34	-14	166	145	-12
June	128	146	+13	4	2	-94	30	31	+4	162	179	+10
July	99	154	+56	2	3	+91	33	38	+16	134	195	+47
August	161	167	+4	1	4	+377	25	26	+0	187	196	+6
September	135			1			36			172		
October	108			1			39			148		
November	134			1			40			175		
December	149			1			43			193		
Total	1,645			27			470			2,142		
EXPORTS												
January	9.57	4.09	-57	0.35	0.39	+10	4.76	8.61	+81	14.68	13.09	-11
February	8.77	4.24	-5	.27	.26	-4	3.13	10.64	+240	12.17	15.14	+24
March	8.06	4.02	-50	.34	.39	+13	4.12	24.88	+503	12.52	29.29	+134
April	6.02	4.33	-28	.41	.37	-11	5.88	10.68	+82	12.31	15.38	+25
May	4.66	3.34	-28	.22	.40	+80	6.22	13.42	+116	11.10	17.16	+55
June	3.48	2.92	-16	.22	.29	+33	9.19	19.18	+109	12.89	22.39	+74
July	3,82	2.97	-22	.41	.37	-10	8.19	23.94	+163	12.42	27.28	+120
August	3.06	3.84	+25	.24	.26	+9	13.20	22.18	+68	16.50	26.28	+59
September	3.34			.27			15.63			19.24		
October	4.04			.46			16.03			20.53		
November	4.12			.48			10.22			14.82		
December	4.27			.31			8.02			12.60		
Total	63.21			3.98			104.59			171.78		

[1] Includes goat meat.

Supply and distribution of commercially produced meat, by month, carcass weight

Meat and period	Supply: Production[1]	Supply: Beginning stocks	Supply: Imports	Distribution: Exports and shipments	Distribution: Ending stocks	Distribution: Military	Distribution: Civilian consumption: Total	Distribution: Civilian consumption: Per person[2]
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Pounds*
Beef:								
1974								
July	1,941	441	98	9	403	23	2,045	9.8
August	1,953	403	159	7	376	24	2,108	10.0
September	1,857	376	134	7	347	25	1,988	9.5
October	2,151	347	105	8	359	13	2,223	10.6
November	1,952	359	130	9	359	20	2,053	9.7
December	1,918	359	145	10	402	19	1,991	9.5
1975								
January	2,100	402	188	10	414	17	2,249	10.7
February	1,843	414	138	8	392	19	1,976	9.4
March	1,890	392	149	8	383	16	2,024	9.6
April	1,894	383	123	8	348	24	2,020	9.6
May	1,849	348	109	9	308	24	1,965	9.3
June	1,849	308	145	8	288	35	1,971	9.3
July	1,915	288	153	7	268	17	2,064	9.8
August	1,961	268	166	(8)	255	(20)	2,112	10.0
Veal:								
1974								
July	34	15	1	1	14	1	34	.2
August	40	14	2	2	13	1	40	.2
September	47	13	1	1	12	1	47	.2
October	59	12	3	1	12	1	60	.3
November	48	12	4	3	13	([3])	48	.2
December	47	13	4	2	14	([3])	48	.2
1975								
January	59	14	4	1	15	1	60	.3
February	50	15	1	1	14	([3])	51	.2
March	56	14	2	1	13	1	57	.3
April	60	13	1	2	11	1	60	.3
May	59	11	1	1	11	1	58	.3
June	63	11	1	1	10	([3])	64	.3
July	77	10	1	1	8	1	78	.4
August	73	8	1	(1)	9	(1)	71	.3
Lamb & Mutton:								
1974								
July	36	16	2	1	16	([3])	37	.2
August	39	16	1	([3])	15	([3])	41	.2
September	43	15	1	1	14	([3])	44	.2
October	44	14	1	1	15	([3])	43	.2
November	32	15	([3])	1	14	([3])	32	.2
December	32	14	1	1	14	1	31	.1
1975								
January	35	14	1	1	12	([3])	37	.2
February	31	12	2	([3])	11	([3])	34	.1
March	35	11	2	([3])	9	([3])	39	.2
April	34	9	3	([3])	10	([3])	36	.2
May	31	10	1	1	9	([3])	32	.1
June	31	9	2	1	7	([3])	35	.2
July	32	7	3	1	7	([3])	34	.2
August	32	7	4	(1)	10	—	32	.2
Pork:								
1974								
July	1,016	354	33	14	292	11	1,086	5.2
August	1,100	292	25	20	254	7	1,136	5.4
September	1,127	254	36	25	249	10	1,133	5.4
October	1,217	249	39	22	269	6	1,208	5.8
November	1,123	269	40	20	302	7	1,103	5.2
December	1,091	302	43	17	306	8	1,105	5.2
1975								
January	1,113	306	44	17	295	6	1,145	5.5
February	954	295	33	17	301	8	956	4.5
March	976	301	40	30	299	6	982	4.6
April	1,100	299	37	18	343	9	1,066	5.0
May	925	343	34	22	322	10	948	4.5
June	889	322	31	30	283	11	918	4.3
July	817	283	38	31	228	8	871	4.1
August	794	228	26	(30)	184	(10)	824	3.9
Total Meat:								
1974								
July	3,027	826	134	25	725	35	3,202	15.4
August	3,152	725	187	29	658	32	3,325	15.8
September	3,074	658	172	34	622	36	3,212	15.3
October	3,471	622	148	32	655	20	3,534	16.9
November	3,155	655	174	33	688	27	3,236	15.3
December	3,088	688	193	30	736	28	3,175	15.0
1975								
January	3,307	736	237	29	736	24	3,491	16.7
February	2,878	736	174	26	718	27	3,017	14.2
March	2,957	718	193	39	704	23	3,102	14.7
April	3,088	704	164	28	712	34	3,182	15.1
May	2,864	712	145	33	649	35	3,004	14.2
June	2,832	649	179	40	588	46	2,986	14.1
July	2,841	588	195	40	511	26	3,047	14.4
August	2,860	511	197	(40)	458	(31)	3,039	14.4

[1] Excludes production from farm slaughter. [2] Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies. [3] Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	1975								
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	Dollars per 100 pounds								
MARKET PRICES:									
SLAUGHTER CATTLE:									
Steers:									
Omaha:									
Prime, 1100-1300 lb.	37.12	35.74	37.24	44.51	51.59	55.26	53.78	—	—
Choice, 900-1100 lb.	36.34	34.74	36.08	42.80	49.48	51.82	50.21	46.80	48.91
Good, 900-1100 lb.	33.09	31.43	32.93	38.92	44.00	45.85	43.34	39.52	41.09
California, Choice 900-1100 lb.	39.65	37.19	38.81	45.95	52.00	53.94	50.50	45.75	—
Colorado, Choice 900-1100 lb.	36.65	34.52	36.21	43.95	51.35	53.86	50.98	46.48	48.99
Cows:									
Omaha:									
Commercial	16.86	18.19	19.54	21.87	23.59	23.55	22.13	21.99	23.45
Utility	16.82	18.18	19.45	21.67	23.55	23.32	22.00	21.29	22.45
Cutter	15.00	16.02	17.25	18.98	19.64	19.94	19.42	18.84	19.64
Canner	12.96	13.58	14.99	16.51	16.43	16.91	16.90	16.72	17.02
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	36.88	40.25	38.90	46.84	40.56	39.15	39.01	37.10	36.57
FEEDER STEERS:									
Kansas City:									
Choice, 400-500 lb.	25.09	26.29	29.14	31.45	34.66	35.82	32.58	31.70	35.15
Choice, 600-700 lb.	26.45	26.96	28.75	31.69	35.50	36.81	34.70	34.34	37.59
Good, 600-700 lb.	21.75	23.19	24.34	26.54	29.45	30.16	28.60	29.15	33.48
All weights and grades	26.79	26.82	27.86	30.73	34.87	33.52	32.53	32.93	35.98
Amarillo:									
Choice, 600-700 lb.	27.10	26.31	28.38	31.87	34.03	36.91	34.40	34.18	37.11
Good, 600-700 lb.	22.33	21.56	24.08	27.33	29.81	32.75	29.38	23.12	28.62
Georgia Auctions:									
Choice, 600-700 lb.	24.63	24.62	24.62	27.40	29.88	31.38	30.40	28.06	30.56
Good, 400-500 lb.	21.13	21.50	21.19	24.15	25.19	25.44	23.00	22.50	24.38
SLAUGHTER HOGS:									
Barrows and Gilts:									
Omaha:									
Nos. 1 & 2, 200-220 lb.	39.68	40.20	40.17	41.54	47.56	52.19	57.81	58.73	61.26
Nos. 1 & 2, 220-240 lb.	39.79	40.26	40.20	41.57	47.51	52.26	58.00	58.89	61.30
All weights	38.54	39.33	39.20	40.25	46.13	50.77	56.66	57.88	61.11
Sioux City	38.69	39.69	39.59	40.74	46.42	51.31	57.25	58.12	61.19
7 markets[1]	38.93	39.61	39.52	40.69	46.44	51.19	57.12	58.10	61.23
Sows:									
7 markets[1]	35.01	36.52	36.58	37.00	41.12	44.28	49.59	51.89	54.56
FEEDER PIGS:									
U.S. No. 1 & 2, So. Missouri, 40-50 lb.	30.10	35.75	39.75	43.05	44.00	44.65	44.10	46.75	58.81
SHEEP AND LAMBS:									
Slaughter:									
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	38.25	39.31	46.50	46.65	47.62	46.06	45.25	40.75	43.50
Lambs, Choice, So. St. Paul	37.72	40.42	42.44	44.18	50.18	45.94	44.09	39.91	42.14
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	14.12	15.56	17.25	18.40	15.44	15.38	17.00	13.44	12.94
Ewes, Good, So. St. Paul	6.25	7.00	8.12	8.88	9.42	9.83	9.94	8.15	8.75
Feeder Lambs:									
Choice, San Angelo	34.12	35.31	37.38	43.65	43.00	39.69	40.25	38.75	41.25
Choice, So. St. Paul	34.31	34.78	36.74	37.00	37.79	37.35	37.10	35.52	36.63
FARM PRICES:									
Beef cattle:	27.60	26.90	27.80	31.80	36.50	38.50	36.20	33.10	34.60
Steers and heifers	31.00	29.60	30.50	34.90	40.10	42.60	40.70	37.10	38.70
Cows	16.50	18.10	18.70	20.10	22.20	21.90	20.60	19.70	20.50
Calves	23.90	24.30	24.70	26.80	29.50	29.70	28.10	25.70	27.40
Hogs	38.20	28.40	38.30	39.30	45.10	47.30	54.10	56.00	58.50
Sheep	9.60	9.90	10.10	11.40	11.70	11.40	11.90	11.00	11.50
Lambs	36.90	38.10	39.90	42.70	45.40	45.10	43.50	39.80	40.40
	$ per 100 lb.								
MEAT PRICES:									
Wholesale:									
Chicago:									
Steer beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	61.36	58.41	59.50	70.20	80.60	85.76	84.92	77.95	79.66
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 lb.	60.63	57.63	58.48	68.66	78.92	85.03	83.47	76.20	77.40
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	36.97	39.62	41.84	44.07	46.44	46.64	45.38	43.67	45.50
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	79.25	76.53	74.79	78.63	92.49	102.04	109.56	105.51	116.67
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	60.55	62.23	62.39	68.56	73.27	82.21	92.92	105.46	103.48
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	68.80	71.18	70.67	67.56	74.89	79.91	84.93	91.08	99.08
East Coast:									
Steer beef, Choice 600-700 lb.	64.03	60.34	61.09	71.07	82.09	88.01	84.92	80.09	82.40
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 35-45 lb.	87.05	88.31	90.56	93.87	97.13	96.75	99.29	91.67	92.36
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 55-65 lb.	84.28	86.25	89.44	93.07	97.13	96.50	99.29	91.67	92.36
West Coast:									
Steer Beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	63.88	61.94	62.90	73.08	83.38	89.16	86.89	81.26	82.80
	Cents per pound								
Retail:									
Beef, Choice	132.8	129.0	127.0	133.9	147.8	157.8	161.0	155.5	
Veal	187.0	184.1	180.8	181.9	185.3	186.0	190.1	185.8	
Pork	114.9	114.8	113.6	115.7	123.0	130.5	143.7	150.2	
Lamb	156.0	157.2	154.7	158.6	164.7	169.9	175.8	174.5	
Price Indexes (BLS, 1967=100)									
Wholesale meat	161.9	159.0	159.0	171.6	189.8	199.3	208.0	203.4	
Retail meat	161.9	160.9	159.7	160.2	167.9	177.8	188.5	190.4	
Beef and veal	158.5	156.6	153.3	154.6	166.4	176.6	186.4	182.5	
Pork	170.0	169.6	170.5	170.0	175.6	187.9	204.9	214.5	
Other meats	158.2	158.3	158.8	158.6	160.5	166.4	170.1	174.5	
LIVESTOCK-FEED RATIOS, OMAHA[2]									
Beef steer-corn	11.8	12.5	13.1	15.0	17.6	18.2	17.2	15.0	16.5
Hog-corn	12.6	14.1	14.3	14.1	16.4	17.9	19.4	18.5	20.6

[1] St. Louis N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis. [2] Bushels of No. 2 Yellow Corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds liveweight.

Selected marketings, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1974	1975							
		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
FEDERALLY INSPECTED:										
Slaughter:										
Cattle	1,000 head	2,902	3,152	2,778	2,826	2,889	2,851	2,897	3,084	3,141
Steers	1,000 head	1,403	1,535	1,412	1,452	1,428	1,364	1,304	1,332	1,308
Heifers	1,000 head	694	765	701	700	707	684	714	741	817
Cows	1,000 head	742	786	606	611	683	719	787	912	923
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	63	66	59	63	71	84	92	99	93
Calves	1,000 head	254	284	250	276	284	270	276	344	345
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	595	662	570	648	627	615	613	635	621
Hogs	1,000 head	6,243	6,350	5,540	5,751	6,361	5,376	5,077	4,659	4,627
Percentage sows	Percent	7	5	4	4	4	5	6	7	7
Average live weight per head										
Cattle	Pounds	1,040	1,036	1,036	1,038	1,022	1,017	999	983	981
Calves	Pounds	204	216	216	222	216	227	231	237	225
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	106	106	107	106	105	101	101	101	102
Hogs	Pounds	246	242	236	236	238	240	244	241	237
Average dressed weight per head										
Beef	Pounds	604	609	608	613	600	596	587	571	574
Veal	Pounds	116	123	121	126	122	127	132	133	126
Lamb and mutton	Pounds	53	52	53	52	52	50	49	49	50
Pork	Pounds	164	166	163	161	164	163	167	166	164
Lard	Pounds	16	16	15	16	14	15	14	14	14
Production:										
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,747	1,914	1,684	1,728	1,727	1,694	1,697	1,756	1,798
Veal	Mil. lb.	29	35	30	34	34	34	36	45	43
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	31	34	30	34	32	30	30	31	31
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,023	1,049	900	922	1,043	876	842	864	845
Lard	Mil. lb.	99	98	84	91	92	83	71	64	64
COMMERCIAL:										
Slaughter:[1]										
Cattle	1,000 head	3,234	3,506	3,082	3,132	3,206	3,149	3,193	3,400	3,468
Calves	1,000 head	342	375	330	361	384	371	382	468	466
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	617	682	586	675	652	636	636	658	648
Hogs	1,000 head	6,672	6,759	5,892	6,105	6,731	5,693	5,386	4,955	4,883
Production:										
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,917	2,100	1,843	1,890	1,894	1,849	1,849	1,915	1,961
Veal	Mil. lb.	51	59	50	56	60	59	63	77	73
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	32	35	31	35	34	31	31	32	32
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,091	1,113	954	976	1,100	925	889	817	794
Lard	Mil. lb.	104	103	87	94	96	86	74	68	67
COLD STORAGE STOCKS FIRST OF MONTH:										
Beef	Mil. lb.	359	402	414	392	383	348	308	288	268
Veal	Mil. lb.	13	14	15	14	13	11	11	10	8
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	14	14	12	11	9	10	9	7	7
Pork	Mil. lb.	302	306	295	301	299	343	322	283	228
Total meat and meat products[2]	Mil. lb.	753	803	815	798	783	794	722	652	573
FOREIGN TRADE:										
Imports: (carcass weight)										
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	149	192	139	151	124	110	146	154	167
Pork	Mil. lb.	43	44	33	40	37	34	31	38	26
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	3	4
Exports: (carcass weight)										
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	4.27	4.09	4.24	4.02	4.33	3.34	2.92	2.97	3.84
Pork	Mil. lb.	8.02	8.61	10.64	24.88	10.68	13.42	19.18	23.93	22.18
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	.31	.39	.26	.39	.37	.40	.29	.37	.26
Live animal imports:										
Cattle	Number	16,136	7,570	7,272	6,421	8,697	18,997	33,064	18,801	5,110
Hogs	Number	1,612	2,417	2,586	2,170	2,268	2,433	385	48	2,574
Sheep and lambs	Number	345	2	14	2	54	39	97	22	795
Live animal exports:										
Cattle	Number	28,985	25,877	15,046	14,405	15,597	15,260	15,223	18,348	9,873
Hogs	Number	1,105	246	4,105	472	764	1,532	785	2,647	758
Sheep and lambs	Number	36,612	29,254	27,975	32,502	41,755	28,275	40,680	36,656	30,719

[1] Federally inspected and other commercial. [2] Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed.

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LMS-205 OCTOBER 1975

OUTLOOK CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 17-20, 1975

The 1976 National Outlook Conference will be held November 17-20 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

The conference will feature presentations and panel discussions. Particular attention will be given to the outlook for agriculture and the general economy in 1976. Sessions on the 1976 outlook for major commodities, foreign trade, and rural family living will make up an important part of the conference as usual. USDA's Economic Research Service and Extension Service sponsor the conference. The schedule for individual sessions will be announced later. As in the past, a session will be devoted to the outlook for livestock and meat.